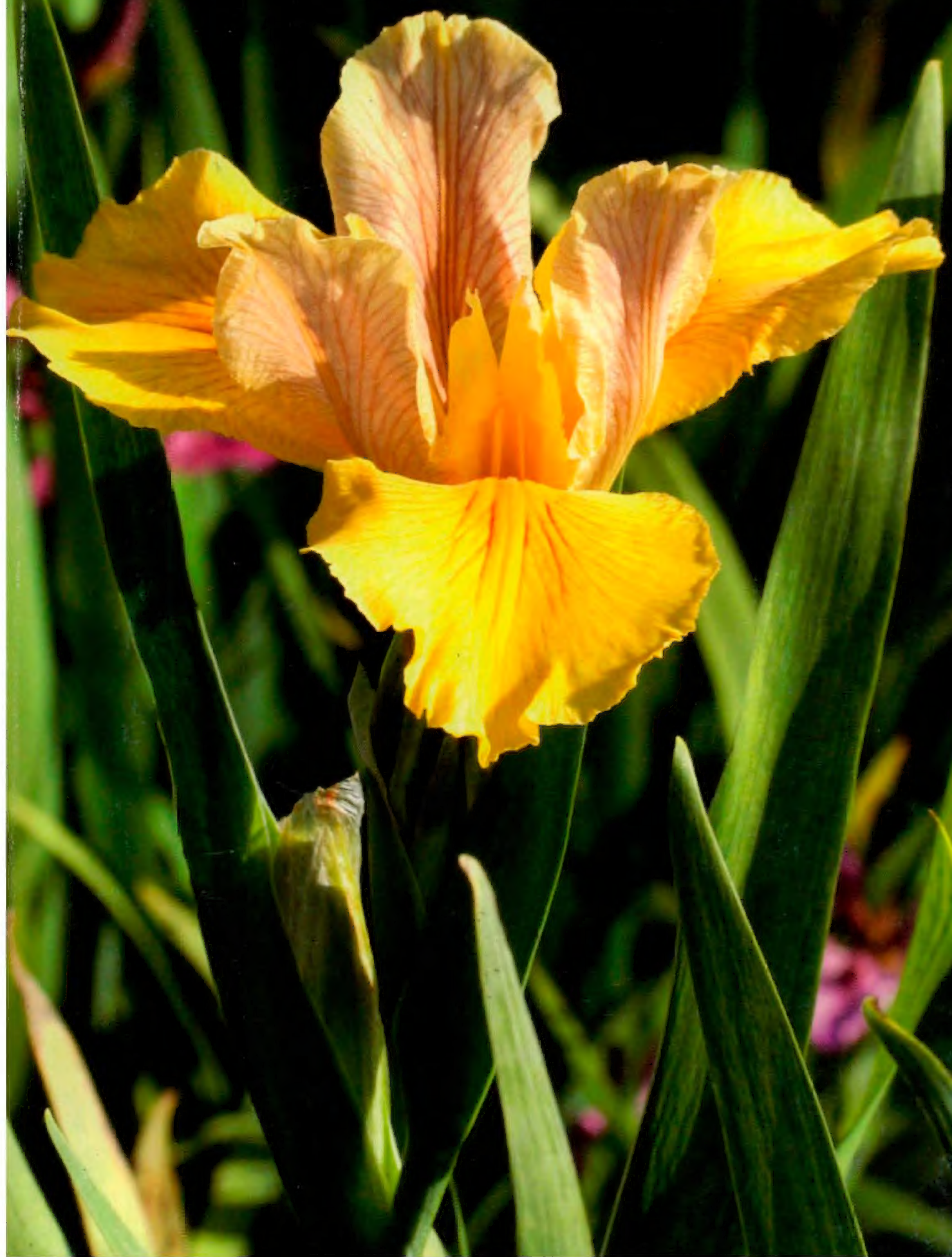


Bulletin of the

April 2009

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The American Iris Society

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THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT INSTITUTION INCORPORATED February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the Iris.

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Society for Siberian Iris	10.00	25.00	12.00	30.00
Spuria Iris Society	9.00	20.00	12.00	24.00
Society for Japanese Iris	10.00	25.00	12.00	31.00
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Dwarf Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Historic Iris Preservation Society	10.00	24.00	12.00	30.00
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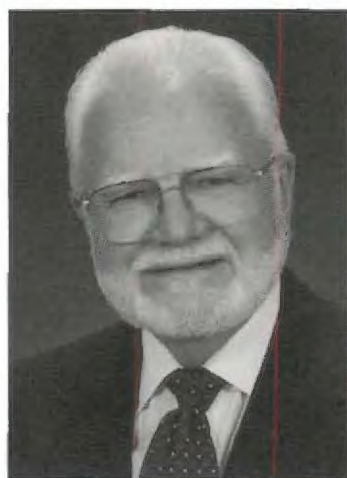
President's Message

By E. Roy Epperson, North Carolina

The world turns and times change.

President L.F. Randolph in the July 1960 *Bulletin* reported on the progress of "A 10-Point Program for the AIS." That program was as follows:

1. **Improved Regional organization.** To promote more active participation of more members in AIS affairs at the Regional and local levels, and to develop a greater public interest in iris culture.
2. **Increased participation of the RVPs in Society affairs.** By continuing the joint meetings of the Directors and RVPs at the annual meetings and by more closely coordinating National and Regional activities.
3. **Promotion of all kinds of irises.** By developing mutually beneficial collaboration with special-interest societies, local iris societies, clubs and other iris organizations.
4. **Continuation of membership campaigns.** With an objective of a minimum net yearly increase of 1,000 members, the active participation of all Regions and a drastic reduction in non-renewals.
5. **Revision of Bulletin policy.** To include an enlarged editorial staff, new features, changed format and broader coverage of topics of major interest to all members.
6. **Increase the effectiveness of the Awards system.** By means of an expanded judges training program, the maintenance of higher standards of garden and show judging and the promotion of additional iris shows and exhibits.
7. **The establishment of an adequate national test-garden program.** Providing more adequate facilities for evaluating regional performance and garden value of all kinds of irises.
8. **Added support for the National Robin Program.** Furnishing favorable opportunities for participation of all interested members at home and abroad.
9. **An expanded program of Scientific Committee activities.** With emphasis on the promotion of improved cultural practices, more adequate disease and pest control; breeding for winter hardiness, vigor, disease resistance, cytotaxonomic and cytogenetic research.



10. A dynamic public-relations program. To promote AIS activities and objectives and gain wider recognition of irises as the ideal garden flower.

Almost fifty years have passed since the Board of Directors adopted this 10-point program. There has been much success in several areas. Item 7 (Regional Test Gardens) came and went. Item 8 (National Robin Program) peaked and has now declined in favor of e-Robins. Each of the other areas is still vital to the health of The American Iris Society.

The AIS *Bylaws* set forth the purposes of AIS as:

- To develop the science of horticulture and any activities related to the study, propagation and culture of the genus *Iris*;
- To stimulate and foster interest in horticultural pursuits, conservation and protection of these plants;
- To cooperate with other organizations, public and private, in the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning any phase of the genus *Iris*, by any and all means which may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of the AIS
- Encouragement and support of scientific research, including those pertaining to the solution of diseases related to but not necessarily exclusive to the genus *Iris*, and investigation and conservation of the genus in the wild;
- Collection, compilation and publication of data concerning the history, classification, breeding and culture of irises; and
- Education of the public through exhibitions, public display gardens, published standards for judging and local, area, regional and national meetings open to the public.

Clearly then the AIS has had a Strategic Plan (the 10-Point Program) and a delineated purpose. However, AIS needs a Vision Statement and a **current** Strategic Plan in order to move forward into the next several years. To this end, I will initiate a Strategic Plan ad hoc committee to study the current status of AIS, implement a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats), and present a 3-year Strategic Plan to the Board of Directors for their consideration and action. The input of all constituencies of AIS is critical for the success of this initiative.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 states: "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun."

The American Iris Society must prove this statement wrong for there are many new and wonderful things under *this* sun. We must seek and implement them for the ultimate benefit of the genus *Iris* and The American Iris Society. 

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Editor's Message

By Kelly D. Norris, Iowa

William Wordsworth wrote in 1804 "Feel the gladness of the May!" Though this is the April issue, I think his sentiments then, set in the larger context of his nine stanza ode "Intimations of Immortality", hold forth with relevance now in the face of gardener's gladsome season. April marks a change of tide in the minds of gardeners; in some areas of the country most literally thanks to welcome spring showers. Reticulated irises begin blooming in early April in my garden, joined by an ephemeral chorus of rock garden stars like pasqueflowers (*Pulsatilla*), creeping phloxes, and hellebores. Soon thereafter the first miniature dwarf bearded will open up and spring will take off in earnest. It is no secret that gardeners are vernal people. Our appetite for the colors, the temperatures, and the joy outlasts the season itself. "Nothing can bring back the hour of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower," wrote Wordsworth. In the garden this is remarkably and obviously true.



For this issue your *Bulletin* staff has again combed through the cotton to find the best fibers of knowledge to share with you. Our society is fortunate to have such gifted and bright people willing to share their time and talents, whether by the pen or the camera. Surely by inclusion you're one of those too! Don't ever take away the idea that the "hopper", as my cohort Terry calls it, runneth over from issue to issue with stories and photographs. We need your contributions, great or small, to enrich the pages of this fine publication. As editors, we're happy to help you put something together if you're shy of your own talents. Even if you have an idea, we're happy to hear them and attempt to find someone capable of authoring the piece (though article suggestions usually warrant an immediate reply in the form of "so will you gladly write this?") The job of *Bulletin* editor also comes with loud speakers piped into my office directly from your homes and gardens.

Please feel free to always share your opinion with me or Terry. Just remember that the *Bulletin* is a composite publication of a multitude of passions, and we make every meaningful attempt to remain tolerant and inclusive of a plethora of viewpoints. We can't include you if we don't hear from you!

Here is a sampling of the contents of your April *Bulletin*. Returning this issue is one of my favorite installments, "The Other Irids", written on this occasion by Texas native plant enthusiast Rodney Barton about the pinewood lily (*Alophia drummondii*). Thanks to all of you who forwarded your enthusiastic comments onto me about the *Sisyrinchium* piece that appeared in October. I've in turn shared them with the authors who hope that many of you will be considering growing more of the blue-eyed grasses and their relatives. Lowell Baumunk was kind enough to offer a report on his breeding work with arilmedians, something hybridizers will certainly want to check out, accompanied by superb photography and helpful diagrams. Judy Keisling adds her voice to the call for more editorial support in a fine piece called "An Editor's Lament". Judy has pulled triple duties this issue and her dedication to the AIS is to be commended. Thanks very much Judy.

In the penultimate stanza of his ode, Wordsworth writes:

Then sing, ye birds, sing, sing a joyous song!

And let the young lambs bound

As to the tabor's sound!

We in thought will join your throng,

Ye that pipe and ye that play,

Ye that through your hearts to-day

Feel the gladness of the May!

Let's not simply join the throng of spring merrymakers in thought. Let's embody that throng physically in the gardens of Kansas City. I hope to see many of you feeling the gladness of May at our national convention. Happy spring! 

Milestones

Compiled by Jim Morris, Missouri

The big milestones this year that everybody is talking about are the 200th anniversaries of the birth dates of Abraham Lincoln and Englishman Charles Darwin. Their shared birth is an interesting coincidence, also shared with mystery writer Edgar Allen Poe. Each in their way had a strong impact on our world. Lincoln of course as the “great emancipator” who is pictured on the U. S. penny and \$5 bill; Darwin, pictured on the British 10-pound note, with his theories on evolution; and Poe with macabre fiction such as *The Fall of the House of Usher* and *The Tell-Tale Heart*. My favorite though is the 250th anniversary of Scottish poet Robert Burns, born January 25, 1759. His collecting and writing of Scottish songs such as his version of *Auld Lang Syne* and *A Man's a Man for a' That* (which I often listen to in its best Scottish dialect on a CD in my car) are commonplace in the third century of his birth.

Central Arkansas Iris Society 50th Anniversary

The Central Arkansas Iris Society in Little Rock, AR, Region 22 will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on September 20, 2009 at Hillcrest Hall (formerly the Garden Club Center of Little Rock). All past presidents of the CAIS since its foundation in September 1959 will be honored.

Can-West Iris Society Affiliated

Region 16, Canada is pleased to announce the addition of a new affiliate, the Can-West Iris Society (CWIS). This new society is primarily an online group dedicated to the promotion of iris in cold climates. Their goals are to promote interest in growing iris in cold climate areas, provide the information needed to successfully do this, and encourage cold-climate hybridization programs. With a membership of 46 people from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the group also has members in Ontario and just recently added their first member from Alaska. Affiliation with AIS was approved in May 2008.

Communication between members is handled through the use of an online mailing list. Stories, successes and failures, and lots of photos are shared through the CWIS Open Forum group at Yahoo. (To subscribe to the discussion group send an e-mail message to CWIS_Open_Forum-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) Note the subset

underline between CWIS_Open_Forum. The society publishes a newsletter Aurora three times a year and will host an annual iris show. In 2009 it will be held June 13. A members-only rhizome sale the first weekend in August is considered a huge benefit by providing access to cutting-edge creations of leading hybridizers. The society has a Web site www.canwestirissociety.info and is administered by a four-member organizing committee: Barbara-Jean (BJ) Jackson, Jennifer Bishop, El Hutchison and Deb Petrie. Congratulations on your 2008 affiliation with AIS!

Archiving Your Members

As any organization matures, its membership ages as well. What concerns me about this fact of nature is that we often lose contact with many of those national and local members as they recede from participation in club meetings, garden tours and iris shows. New members may or may not remember “good old John” or “that iris lady.” Residence in nursing homes and eventual death follows. Then someone tries to gather information on John or the iris lady and it becomes a major task – sometimes next to impossible if there are no heirs. What can your club do about this?

Well, I would recommend some sort of archiving effort. You could start with simply keeping an ongoing history of all your officers. Print this list every five years in your local publication. Ask for short biographies of your officers and **print** them too. You could write a more detailed archival article about key members in your Regional bulletin. You could develop a club Web site and create a club history and bio history of members. It isn’t that hard to do. Ken Coleman, Boise, ID, reported in the Dwarf Iris Society *Newsletter*, March 2007, on the then new DIS Web site which he designed in plain English (no html code writing). He set it up through www.zyworld.com, which provided all the building software, storage and technical support at a nominal cost of \$79.00 per year for a non-profit/personal account. This approach to Web building is often referred to as “What You See Is What You Get” or “wysiwyg.” This type of Web site can be passed from one administrator to another by simply providing the new person with the account name and password.

About Remembering “Salt-of-the-Earth” Members

There are many good people at the grassroots level of AIS – people who grow, or have grown, wonderful iris gardens. They may not have held any position at the national level in AIS, or been a top hybridizing honcho, or a high “muckety-muck,” yet in many ways these salt-of-the-

earth types **are** the American Iris Society. They may not qualify for an obituary in the *AIS Bulletin* because of current practice associated with space and AIS service constraints, but they are as worthy of our collective remembrance as any high “muckety-muck.” So I’ll briefly mention such folks as “the Haltom Road Iris Lady,” **Peggy Williams**, age 84, Region 17, who passed January 29, 2009. She was a charter member of the Ft. Worth Iris Society and their president twice. Ms. Williams introduced 25 irises, receiving one HM for ‘Hey Charlie’ (84 BB), named for a neighborhood youth who liked her irises. **Mark Dienstbach**, age 88, Region 18, DOD September 30, 2008, could fix anything mechanical, electrical or electronic. He was a past president of the Greater St. Louis Iris Society, and hosted a guest garden for the 1981 AIS Convention in St. Louis. He was the lead volunteer at Missouri Botanical Garden responsible for establishment of the terrific Alice Goodman Memorial Iris Garden, where he toiled for 15 years.

I might also report on **Ruth Schulz**, age 85, Region 1, DOD October 26, 2008, an AIS Life Member and a founder of the Connecticut Iris Society. She was a past CIS president, Region 1 secretary and editor of the *CIS Newsletter*. She and her late husband Carl, former Region 1 RVP, introduced four irises in the 1970s and 80s. Or, I might mention **Robert Preston**, age 81, Region 18, DOD July 25, 2008, who was a charter member and founder of the Boothill Iris Club of Dodge City, KS. Mr. Preston, a teacher and football coach, was inducted into the Kansas Teachers’ Hall of Fame in 1999. Or, **Betty Bohrer**, age 75, Region 18, DOD June 7, 2008, an AIS Life Member and charter member of the O’Fallon Iris Society. She was a former president of the Washington Iris Club and hostess of a guest garden for the 1981 AIS Convention. Her estate of iris paintings (she was a talented artist) and artifacts has been donated to both the Region 18 and AIS silent auctions. And then there was **Dr. Robert Kirk Strawn**, age 86, Region 17, who passed June 9, 2008. He was a founder of the International Water Lily Society, its second president, and professor at four universities including Texas A&M. A member of the Society for Louisiana Irises, he introduced 38 Louisiana irises including ‘Charlene Strawn’ (96) one of the largest LAs extant.

In Memoriam

Manley Conroy Osborne

(November 4, 1918 – January 16, 2009)

Captain Osborne, USN retired, age 90, died January 16, 2009 and his ashes were scattered at sea. Manley, Region 14, was a member of the Monterey Bay Iris Society and a noted hybridizer of “space age” irises at a time when they were just starting to be accepted, albeit reluctantly by the iris-growing fraternity. Osborne introduced 18 irises including one aril regelia (AR) and 17 TBs, most in his horned and spooned hybridizing program. His irises were awarded five HMs and one AM -- in 1986 for his classic horned TB ‘Sky Hooks’ (80) which was seedling SA-1. His other HMs were awarded for ‘Classy Chassy’ (90) in 1993; ‘Gladys Austin’ (85) in 1987; ‘Snow Shoes’ (95) in 1999; and his pink horned ‘Twice Thrilling’ (84) in 1989. Although it shamefully did not win any AIS awards, my favorite TB-SA of his was the purple ‘Trick Or Treat’ (84). It took Monty Byer’s ebullient marketing to get the space-agers accepted.

Osborne was born in Covington, KY, in 1918 and attended the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, from which he graduated in 1940, and the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. He earned a Master of Science degree at the University of Pennsylvania. During World War II he served in the Pacific on board the carriers USS Saratoga and USS Lexington. He earned stars for 15 major battles as well as the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals. During the Korean War he commanded the destroyer USS Twining participating in the landing at Inchon and the bombardment of Wonsan. He earned the Bronze Star medal for his Korean service. Other service included Director of Ammunition at the Naval Bureau of Ordnance, duty on the Joint Staff in Tokyo, Executive Officer of the U.S. Naval Ordnance Missile Test Facility at White Sands, commander of minesweepers in the Pacific, and Bureau of Naval Weapons Representative in Sunnyvale overseeing the development of the Polaris missile at Lockheed, Westinghouse, and other companies.

He retired from active Navy duty in 1964 and became the Aerospace Corporation Sunnyvale resident manager. He retired finally in 1985 and vigorously pursued his main hobby of hybridizing iris. Captain Osborne is survived by his second wife Toshiko, sons Bryan of La Honda, CA, Lee of Heber City, UT, and daughter Ann of Fremont, CA, all by his deceased wife Elizabeth (Betty) Ann (nee Bourgette), and two grandchildren. He was preceded by his parents Green Elzie Osborne and Hildreth (nee Roland), his first wife, and son Mark. 🌸

Section Happenings

By Jim Morris, Section Liaison Consultant, Missouri

One of the advantages of living in the Midwest is that we can grow most iris classifications and our highly variable weather gives all the species and varieties quite a work out. 2008 was one of our best bloom seasons in years with peak bloom for the tall bearded irises coming very late on Memorial Day weekend in the St. Louis area. Back in 1983 when I was editor of the Region 18 (Kansas and Missouri) *Bulletin*, I ran an article by Helen Watters of Washington, MO, in which she said, “1983 was the first time in forty years to have tall bearded iris to peak over the Memorial Day weekend.” Twenty-five years later it happened again! That is twice in 65 years.

We have had good snow cover to mulch all the irises this winter, so we are looking for good bloom again, and what is so often the case after good snow cover—intense coloration in all classifications of irises.

Spuria Iris Society (SIS)

Darol Jurn, editor of the SIS *Spuria News*, has done a marvelous job of rejuvenating that publication with color and interesting articles. It has evolved under his leadership and according to past president Keith Smith, editor Jurn “has delivered a very professional and interesting newsletter.” In the winter 2008 issue his editor’s corner and *Essential Plant Nutrients* article talk a lot about soil pH, various essential plant nutrients and controlled Spuria seed germination. Check both out as well as the varietal color pictures.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS)

The HIPS publication *ROOTS*, Fall 2008, has many items of content to be commended, from some truly spectacular, clear photos by editor Gesine Lohr to the new procedure instituted by Phil Edinger and HIPS webmaster Mike Unser for variety identification of historic irises. Everyone who grows historic irises and unknown irises (“noids” or “UNKs”) should – no, **must** read this information. Many AIS members are involved in trying

ROOTS
Journal of the
Historic Iris Preservation Society



Volume 21 Issue 2 Fall 2008

to identify irises often salvaged from old family collections. The cover picture by Bonnie Petheram of 'Maid of Astolat' (Jacob Sass 1936, TB) was a treat. I also enjoyed the clever "Hello Smithsonian!" printed on the cover as the volume and issue number are back at that institution's request. There is much more worth your time. Kudos, Gesine.

Median Iris Society (MIS)

Another spectacular cover graced *The Medianite* Fall 2008 issue. The MIS folks are "busting their buttons" over the intermediate bearded iris 'Starwoman' (M. Smith 98) winning the 2008 Dykes Medal, to be recognized this spring at the AIS Convention in Kansas City. Marky admits to a few tears when informed of the award by AIS president Roy Epperson. Congratulations Marky for a well deserved award for the first IB in America so honored! The back to basics article by Anita Moran entitled *Understanding the Registrations and Introduction Entries* is a nice treatment of typical entries in the R&I (AIS Registration and Introduction checklists). It is a pet peeve of editors that too many people use the registration date instead of the **correct standard of introduction date** (the last entry other than award dates) when writing about irises.



AIS Section Meeting at Convention in Kansas City

It is not too early to make plans for representatives from the various sections and cooperating societies to attend the Section Meeting at the AIS 2009 Convention in Kansas City. All presidents, membership chairmen and editors are always invited, and anyone else who wants to attend is welcome as well. Please make sure that your organization is represented by a minimum of one representative. Thank you!

Future Iris Conventions

As always, we end this column with the future mini-conventions as reported by the Sections and Cooperating Societies.

Siberian/Species: June 11 – 14, 2009, Twin Cities Area, MN

Society for Louisiana Irises:

April 23 – 26, 2009, Shreveport, LA

April 22 – 24, 2010, Dallas, TX

Spuria Iris Society: June 2010, Portland, OR

Society for Japanese Irises: June 2011, Portland, OR ♪

Youth Views

Cheryl Deaton, California

Stephanie Strauss, Youth Chair for Region 17, recently sent out letters to every youth member in Texas reminding them to renew their dues. With the letter she also sent a recent iris introduction to encourage their continuing interest in growing iris. Stephanie is a full-time college student and 2002 winner of the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. Keep up the good work Stephanie!

In the Las Vegas Iris Society there are three very active youth members, Sydney & Hannah Bunker, and Brayden Dorsey. Sydney and Hannah are 4th generation active iris society members in LVIS. One of the first questions Brayden asked when he joined LVIS was "When can I be President?" Hannah is a future hybridizer, and Sydney just likes growing irises. These youth members have potted irises that they are caring for and will sell them to raise funds for future youth iris projects. See related story in the April 2008 issue of the *Bulletin*.

Our Youth AIS Photo Contest Winner Tabitha Bednar was recently chosen as the Maryland state winner of the Bonnie Plants Cabbage Program. Tabitha, a fourth grader, grew a seven pound cabbage! The Bonnie Plants Cabbage Program is a national program to inspire a love of gardening in youth. Tabitha won a \$1000 savings bond for education. Congratulations Tabitha! You can see her winning photo on the back cover of the January 2009 issue of the *Bulletin*. Many AIS youth members mention vegetable gardening as an activity they enjoy.

Over in Region 21, Lincoln Iris Society youth members Grace & Spencer Farley, and Sarah Green have been keeping busy with many activities. Spencer is a member of the Governor's Youth Advisory Council. Council members meet every three months and focus on issues or current legislation of interest to young Nebraskans. Grace, the 2007 Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement winner, is an apprentice judge and has been actively hybridizing for a few years. She is on the honor roll at school. Sarah is a sixth grade student and loves entering contests and shows. She won the AIS Silver Medal at the 2008 Greater Omaha Iris Society Spring Show, and was awarded most original entry in the recent AIS Coloring Contest.

Two very active youth members in Maine, Kelsey Best and Caroline Mende were co-chairs for the Artistic Division at the Japanese Iris Show last June. They created the theme "Historic American Events" and created six classes related to the theme. Caroline's design in the class, 'The Signing of the Declaration of Independence' won Best Design in the Youth Division and went on to win Best Design in Show (see below). This was the first time a youth member has won both categories in the history of the Maine Iris Society. Way to go Caroline!

Unfortunately at press time, the winners of the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement and the Ackerman Essay Contest had not been decided. I will present their awards at the AIS National Convention in Kansas. More information about the winners will be available on the youth website www.youth-iris.com once we know the results.

As you can see, we have much to be proud of in our AIS youth members. Please encourage a young person to grow iris by giving them a rhizome, inviting them to a club meeting, or mentoring them in their hybridizing efforts. Youth membership in AIS is only \$5 (\$9 with Bulletin), and it is definitely worth it. Don't you agree?

The weeds in my garden are calling, so until I see you at the convention, happy irising! 🌸



International News

By Anna and David Cadd, California

On the 90th anniversary of Latvia's independence, President Valdis Zatlers presented the country's highest honor, the Cross of the Ministry, to those who have worked within their profession to promote Latvian identity, both at home and abroad. We are pleased to announce that it was presented to the Editor-in-Chief of the magazine "Dars un Drava" (Garden and Apiary) to Dr. Biol. H. C. Aldonis Verins, a member of the American Iris Society.

In Memorium, Hilary Towers, British Iris Society

With great sadness we learned about the passing of Hilary Towers who served as British Iris Society Secretary. She was also the Secretary of the Kent Group and contributed to the success of that Group. She was married to Chris Towers, BIS Treasurer. We offer heartfelt condolences to Chris on his very sad loss.

International Iris Competitions

There are many hybridizers who would like to participate in the international iris competitions. We hope this invitation to all interested hybridizers will expose the competitions to new people and different irises.

1. British Iris Society:

Except when they have a convention, the BIS does not have an international competition that is open to all hybridizers. They have the Award of Garden Commendation (AGC) trials which are only open to hybridizers who are BIS members. The next BIS Convention is in 2012 and they will be looking for guest iris later this summer.

For information please contact Clive Russell at <Cliveruss@aol.com>

2. French Iris Society - Société Française des Iris et plantes Bulbeuses

The French Iris Society is organizing the FRANCIRIS® 2011 in cooperation with TECOMAH, the School of Environment and Life Enhancement (Technical and Commercial school of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris). The last competitions were in 2005 and 2007; the next one will be in 2011. The French Iris Society website has an excellent and detailed description of how to submit entries. Visit

their website at <http://www.iris-bulbeuses.org>.

For information, please contact:

Sylvain Ruaud FRANCIRIS 2011

13 les Caves Simonneau; 37420 Beaumont-en-Veron; France

<sylvain.ruaud@orange.fr>

3. Italian Iris Society: The International Iris Competition in Florence – Premio Firenze

The Italian Iris Society has held an International Iris Competition for Tall and Border Bearded irises every year since 1954, with a large presence of irises and with international success. The rhizomes of each variety are sent to Florence from June to September and they are grown at the Iris Garden of Piazzale Michelangelo for three years before being judged by an international jury. The 53rd International Iris Competition will be held May 4 – 9, 2009.

http://www.irisfirenze.it/Sito_Inglese/concorso/bando_en.htm

For entry form and related papers, email <segreteria@irisfirenze.it>

Mrs. Valeria Romoli Società Italiana dell'Iris

Via Bolognese, 17; 50139 Firenze; Italy

4. New Zealand Iris Society

Unfortunately New Zealand iris growers can't accept any shipments of foreign rhizomes into their country because of importation regulations.

AIS members may be interested to read that they are establishing new trial gardens. The trial gardens will serve as a home for five years to irises bred by New Zealand hybridizers. During this time they will be judged, and if they receive sufficient points, they will be able to receive awards.

5. Russian Iris Society

Moscow International Tall Bearded Iris Competition Regulations

The Moscow Tall Bearded Iris Competition is established by the Russian Iris Society and carried out by the RIS together with M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University with aims to stimulate the domestic hybridization of irises. The competition recognizes the most advanced seedlings and introduced varieties of TB irises grown in the Moscow region. Based on the judging results, three competition winners are selected and awarded special RIS medals each year.

Only registered cultivars which were registered (or introduced if the introduction took place before the registration) during the last three years, including the current year, are allowed for test planting. The cultivars can be sent to the competition only by their hybridizer with a limit of no more than six cultivars a year per entrant. Each cultivar can

be submitted to the competition only once. Entrants should send two rhizomes of each cultivar entry to the following address:

Kirill Golikov

Moscow State University, Botanical garden direction

Vorobiyovy Gory

Moscow, 119992; Russia

The materials are to be received from April through the end of August. Each cultivar is judged on the third year after it is planted. The material sent to the competition must be disease-free (phytosanitary certificates are required from foreign entrants). Each irisarian sending his/her material to the competition will receive a confirmation.

All the cultivars are planted under special competition numbers which are also used for marking the cultivars on the judging forms. After the competition the planting material remains the property of the Moscow State University Botanical Garden. The three competition winners can be transferred to another location no earlier than next year following the year of judging. All registered seedlings won't be offered by the botanical garden to the iris market before their introduction by the hybridizer.

To receive plants from abroad we have to obtain import quarantine permits. Those irisarians who plan to take part in the competition should contact us (concerning sending the materials – in advance) via iris750@gmail.com (Kiril Golikov) or s.loktev@mail.ru (Sergey Loktev).

6. German Iris Society – Gesellschaft der Staudenfreunde (GdS) Iris-Fachgruppe

The section Iris of the Society conducts a continuous evaluation of new TB and SDB hybrids in the Botanical Garden Muenchen - Nymphenburg.

Each year, a maximum of five cultivars, two rhizomes each may be submitted. These may be seedlings or named varieties whose registration may not date back more than three years. The names need to be written on small tags. Entries must be sent between the middle of July and the end of August of each year to (and accompanied by phytosanitary certificate):

Botanischer Garten Muenchen – Nymphenburg

Iris Bevertung

Menzinger Str. 65 D; 80638 Muenchen; Germany

Each cultivar is given a plant number. The judging team will not know the identity of an entrant/hybridizer. Garden judging takes place

in the second and third year after planting. The points from both are added together to result in the final placement. Placements and prizes are given separately to national and international entries, but based on the same terms.

To receive the prize in the First Evaluation, a minimum of 70 points must be received.

1st Place – Silver Medal and Certificate

2nd Place and on: “Certificate of Special Recommendation”

To receive a prize in the Total Evaluation, at least 150 points must be received.

1st Place – Gold Medal and Certificate

2nd Place – Silver Medal and Certificate

3rd Place – Bronze Medal and Certificate.

Additional placements with more than 150 points receive a “Certificate of Special Recommendation”. After each judging the hybridizer will receive a written evaluation of the entered iris.

Please note: **Submit an entry form (obtainable from Mrs. Dathe) ahead of time to the address:**

Mrs. Gisela Dathe, Iris Bevertung

Tannerling 57; 65207 Wiesbaden; Germany

<WGDathe998@aol.com>

For information about German Iris Competition, inquiries and correspondence, please contact Gisela Dathe at <WGDathe998@aol.com>

7. AIS Convention in 2011 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Contact Ted Baker at <tedebaker@shaw.ca>

Note that sending the irises for international competitions is not easy or cheap. The average cost of shipment is about \$50.00 per package and requires a phytosanitary certificate which can cost between \$35.00 and \$50.00. The irises are usually donated in full to the competition organizers. Please read the article by Terry Aitken in AIS Bulletin, January 2009, pp. 58-59. 🌹

Donations To AIS

November 15, 2008 – February 15, 2009

Compiled by Donna James, AIS Donations Secretary

IN MEMORY OF	FUND CODE
Dorothy Mc Elhannon (TX) Fort Worth Iris Society (TX)	Gen
Charles Dekker (CA) Clara B Rees Iris Society (CA)	Gen
Mary Smith (OK) The Okalahoma Iris Society (OK)	Gen
Ruth Shutz (CT) Ruth Bennett (CT)	Gen
Connecticut Iris Society INC (CT)	Gen
Region 1 AIS (CT)	Gen
Irene Blanch (WA) Region 13 AIS (WA)	Gen
June Krausse (OR) Region 13 AIS (WA)	Gen
Tom McRae (WA) Region 13 AIS (WA)	Gen
Duane Meek (OR) Region 13 AIS (WA)	R&S
Clara B. Rees Iris Society (CA)	Gen
Greater Portland Iris Society (OR)	Gen
Keith Smith (WA) Region 13 AIS (WA)	GYF
Louie Chestnut (KS) Wichita Area Iris Club (KS)	Gen
Jennifer Sanders (IA) Siouxland Iris Society (IA)	Gen
Irene Harberger (KY) Louisville Area Iris Society (KY)	Gen
GIFTS	FUND CODE
Joyce Poling (AZ)	GYF
Region 13 (OR,WA,AK)	R&S

AIS Donation Fund Codes:

CCYA = Clarke Cosgove Youth Award Fund

*CIP-YF = Classroom Iris Project – Youth Fund

G = General Fund

G/I = General Funds Insurance Defrayment

GYF = General Youth Fund

LIB = Library Fund

R&S = Research & Scholarship

*Please note: CIP-FY = Classroom Iris Project-Youth Fund. Due to the generosity of the donors, the Classroom Iris Project Youth Fund is fully subscribed. Please consider making donations to other Youth funds.

How to Make your Donation to One of the AIS Funds

Donations to AIS Fund Accounts should be made payable to: AIS or the American Iris Society.

Mail to Donna James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074-2356; (315) 598-3346; ron2don@twcnny.rr.com (Note new email)

Clearly identify on a separate piece of paper:

1. The recipient of the memorial or honor.
2. The Fund to which you wish the donation to be credited.
3. The name of person, persons, or organization donation.
4. The address of person(s) to notify that a donation has been made.

AIS Insurance

By Michelle Snyder, Insurance Chair

Below are instructions for obtaining Certificates of Insurance when required by the venue where an event is being held. Please be aware I DO NOT obtain the certificates of insurance for the local clubs, etc. It is the responsibility of the club, etc. hosting the event to obtain the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

To obtain Certificates of Insurance go to www.irises.org. Click on the Member Services link and then click on AIS Insurance and you will be taken to the page that has the instructions for obtaining the necessary Certificate. Download the form, complete it as necessary and fax it to the number shown.

There is a statement that says "Is Certificate Holder requested to be named as an additional insured?" If you only need to show proof of insurance, circle No. If the venue needs to be named as an additional insured, circle Yes.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either 928-282-5867, or my email address of sammygiz@aol.com.

AIS Foundation Donations

Contributions to the American Iris Society Foundation are used for research of the genus *Iris*, administration of scholarships and support of the AIS Library. Iris research includes taxonomy of the genus, as well as disease causes and cures. Over the years, grants have been issued to top Iris researchers and educational institutions throughout the world.

How can you make a contribution or memorial gift to the American Iris Society Foundation?

Checks should be made payable to the American Iris Society Foundation. When sending a memorial gift, please include the name and address of the next-of-kin, so an acknowledgement card may be sent. Your tax-deductible donations should be sent to:

The American Iris Society Foundation

Gary E. White Sec./Treas.

701 Old Cheney Road; Lincoln, NE 68512-1168

The AIS and the AIS Foundation are independent entities. Donations to both are both tax deductible. The primary difference between these donations is that the AIS spends both the principle and interest of the gift as needed to pursue the specific goal selected by the donor in support of the activities of the Society. The AIS Foundation spends only the interest on the gift and maintains the principle in perpetuity to help accomplish the goals of the Foundation which are to foster and disseminate knowledge and appreciation of the genus *Iris*.

Please see the Foundation website at www.aisfoundation.org for further information.

Spring House Cleaning?

Don't know what to do with all those books and iris stuff hanging around?

Why not donate it all to your AIS Library? The library collects iris books, old pictures, trophies and medals, old breeding records, and anything worth saving for history in general. This is an ongoing gift of love for future generations.

The library is especially looking for early bulletins. We do not have a complete collection in the library. Please consider helping out with your donations.

Contact Tracy Plotner, aislibrary@irises.org.

Bob Pries On:

Unsung Heroes of the Plant World

By Robert Pries, North Carolina

Every gardener whether they choose to join or not owes a debt to specialty plant societies. But many gardeners do not know the many gifts they have already received from such organizations.

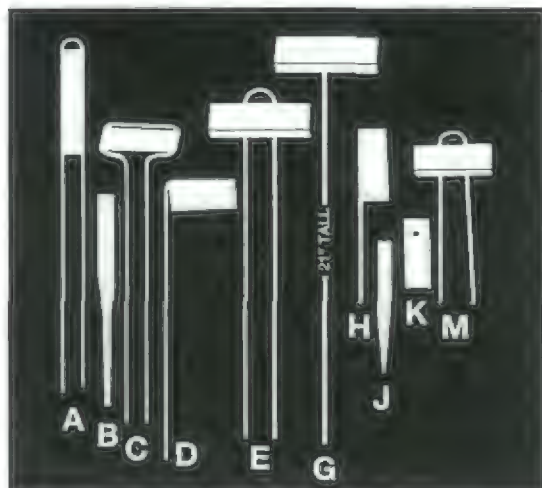
Do you have a favorite plant you remember from childhood? You may not be able to find it at a garden center, but chances are good you could find it through a plant society specializing in that plant. If you are looking for the newest innovation in a certain type of plant, then the relevant plant group probably will have it before the catalogs would. Plant societies not only preserve great old plants in the gardens of their members, but also herald and promote new discoveries sometimes found in these gardens. While nurseries offer a slice of the present state of gardening, plant societies offer the past, present and future.

You may believe that conservation and innovation would exist without plant societies. While this may be true, these acts are of little consequence if they do not connect gardeners and pass along knowledge and plants into the future. Plant societies provide the network for survival of plants and plant knowledge. In our stressed economic times, societies also are a great resource for the low-cost exchange of plants. The Internet provides new tools for connections. Societies promote the dissemination of accurate information and sponsor research to learn more. They are the reliable sources.

But societies provide yet another important benefit. Gardeners find it easier to communicate because of plant societies. Many societies maintain international registries for cultivars of their respective genera. The plants that are not supported by a registry often circulate with multiple names for the same cultivar or as different cultivars with the same name. Trying to find a particular variety can be a nightmare. Thank goodness for the registries that do exist for they have made sense out of chaos.

Of course if one belongs to a plant society, you have the option of sharing the fellowship of others interested in the same plants. But whether one is a joiner or not, every gardener should help support a plant society that provides them with so much already. 

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INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2009

TALL BEARDED

- ADRIATIC WAVES** M 40" (Yaquina Blue X (Sea Power x Rippling River)) Big, blocky medium violet blue, ruffled and waved. #00-261C. \$50.00
- BOLSHOI** L 35" (In Love Again sib X Adoregon) Deep orchid with subtle hyacinth blue center flush, ibis pink beards. #00-201G. \$50.00
- BRAZILIAN ART** ML 32" ((Braggadocio x Prince George) X Rio) Apricot standards, unripe apricot falls with wide muted red purple band. Big, bushy red orange beards. #01-61D. \$45.00
- BRILLIANT IDEA** M 36" (Gypsy Lord X (Restless Heart x Queen's Circle)) Ice white standards, white falls with columbine blue margin, large golden yellow beards. #04-93A. *\$50.00
- FLAME AMBER** EML 38" (Drinks at Sunset X Wearing Rubies) Blended rose, apricot, and amber orange; red orange beards. #00-271C. \$50.00
- RAINBOW HIGH** ML 40" (Starship Enterprise X Rio) Lemon to cream standards, falls bright yellow heart, then warm white surrounded by pleroma violet zone shading to cedar brown, pale rose tan edge. #01-60A. . . . \$50.00
- ROARING TWENTIES** ML 38" (Poem of Ecstasy X Decadence) Highly ruffled beige and grapejuice bicolor, rusty orange beards. #02-162C. . . \$50.00
- SECRET PARTNER** M 40" (Mysterious Ways sib X Trade Secret sib) Creamy greenish yellow, standard base greyed violet. #00-110C. \$45.00
- SORBONNE** ML 38" ((Charleston x ((Rosarita x (Rancho Rose sdlg. x Gigolo)) x Power Surge)) X Drama Queen) Blackish russet standards, fall ground lemon gold to cream with burgundy maroon plic markings. #02-81E. . . \$50.00
- TEENYBOPPER** EM 30" ((Spirit World x Answered Prayers) X Stage Lights sib) Pinkish and red orchid bicolor luminata, heavily ruffled. #00-68C. . \$45.00

any three above for \$125.00

-- 2009 Tall Bearded from Barry Blyth --

- ADOREE** VE-M 35" (((sdlg. x (Gala Greetings sib x Yes)) x Mandarin Morning sib) X I'm Dreaming sib) Orchid standards, cinnamon pink to rose beige falls. Unique color combination. #N276-2. \$60.00
- CARNIVAL CAPERS** ML 36" (Final Episode sib X Decadence) Mimosa standards, lavender falls with heavy purple haft overlay. #M65-6. . . \$60.00
- FASHIONISTA** ML 35" (Candy Clouds X Poem of Ecstasy) Powder pink standards, clean lavender to wistaria falls, ruffled form. #M59-2. . . . \$50.00

MEDIAN IRISES

- EYE TO EYE** Arilmed, M 12" (Lancer X Brash) Light violet blue standards, olive yellow falls washed corinth purple, blackish red purple eye-spot around each golden yellow beard. Cute! #01-1B. \$15.00
- PERSNICKETY** IB, EML 26" (Sneezy sib X (Music x Stormy Circle)) Soft tannish apricot, upper fall peppered and webbed raisin. #00-22E. . \$20.00
- SOLAR GAIN** IB, EM 24" (Delirium X (Atomic Flame x Lonely Hearts)) Intense dark gold glaciata, flared and ruffled. #02-58A. \$20.00
- JARGON** SDB, EM 15" (Snickers X Brash) Warm brown and lemon gold plicata, speckled and washed. Cadmium beards. #00-18D. \$15.00
- LINGO** SDB, ML 12" (((Firestorm x Chum) x Brash) X Arvo) Lime yellow to sulphur, falls plicata-edged brass to brown. #01-24D. \$15.00
- SMALL MARGIN** SDB, M 11" (Fission Chips X Jive sib) Cadmium orange standards and fine margin around solid rosy maroon falls. #02-35B. . . \$15.00

Add \$7.00 for shipping and handling. Priority Mail shipment, July or August.
Catalogue \$2.00, refundable with order.

INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2009 from Dave Niswonger

This year there are three Siberian introductions from *I. typhifolia* (Spec-X) which have the advantage of early bloom - usually with the intermediates and very fertile as follows:

CHINA IN WINTER (Niswonger'09) Spec-X Sdlg. Sib. 3-07:6-99 ((Out In Missouri x *I. typhifolia*) X Unknown)) 38" (97 cms) tall, VE. This is a starchy white with a golden eye zone and a touch of green around the throat. ---- \$30.00

CHINA VIOLET (Niswonger'09) Spec-X, Sdlg. Sib. 5-07: 6-99: (Out In Missouri x *I. typhifolia*) X Unknown, 35" (89 cms) tall, VE. A blue-violet self with blue around eye zone, nice form and floriferous. ----- \$30.00

CHINESE ROSE BAUBLE (Niswonger'09) Spec-X, Sdlg. Sib. 2-07: 6-99: ((Out In Missouri x *I. typhifolia*) X Unknown)), 40" (102 cms) tall, VE. A rose self not seen in many of these hybrids. A delightful color. ----- \$30.00

There are five tall bearded with one of them coming from seed sent to me by Ted Mueller and one reverse amoena carried to the next generation Three of them come from Milk and Apricots X Starring which gave a wide range of bicolors. These are some of the best. Here they are:

ACROSS THE RIVER (Niswonger'09) TB, Sdlg. 19-02: 39-00: (Rear View Mirror x Crowned Heads) X 36-00: (Rear View Mirror x Crowned Heads) 34" (86 cms.), M. This reverse amoena (deep blue stds. and white falls) has the most contrast that I have seen. It has flared falls, well branched and 12 buds. Fertile. ----- \$50.00

BACK TO THE FUTURE (Niswonger'09) TB, Sdlg. 2-05: Milk and Apricots X Staffing, 36" (91 cms.) EM A near amoena of white stds. and light fuchsia falls. The style arms are white tipped apricot and the beard is tangerine. ----- \$50.00

GET THE CAMERA (Niswonger'09) TB, Sdlg. 10-04: Milk and Apricots X Starring, 34" (86 cms.) Mid. An unusual blend of colors with white stds. and falls of violet edged with bronze becoming deeper at the hafts. The style arms are white tipped yellow and beards tangerine. Nicely branched. ----- \$50.00

HALO IN CHARTREUSE (Mueller-Niswonger'09) TB, Sdlg. 55-99: Minted Halo X Halo In Rosewood, 33" (84 cms.) Mid. The stds., style arms and falls are light lavender blue encircled with a chartreuse halo or band The beards are yellow with some blue. Fertile both ways. ----- \$50.00

OFF TO THE RACES (Niswonger'09) TB, Sdlg. 2-06: Milk and Apricots X Starring, 32" (81 cms.), EM. A combination of colors not often seen with the stds. of light yellow and a slightly darker edge. The style arms are near white with a yellow streak in the center and falls of mahogany -also, mahogany beards!! It is one of the first to bloom in my garden. ----- \$50.00

No Catalog Order from this ad

Dave Niswonger 822 Rodney Vista Blvd. Cape Girardeau, Mo 63701
Postage \$8.00 Phone (573) 334-3383 capeiris@aol.com

WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2009

Don Spoon, Ginny Spoon, and Bryan Spoon

Anita Moran (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 99-4A. **SDB**, 10" (25 cm), 2 buds, M. S., style arms, and F. pure white. Style arms midrib light lavender-blue. Blue-violet (RHS 96C) spot on falls, Beards light lavender-blue tipped yellow in throat. Ruffled and flared. Slight sweet fragrance. Vigorous growth. Pod fertile. Ajax the Less X 97- 608: (Can't Stop x TuTu Turquoise). Chosen by Anita for its striking blue on white color. **\$15**

Blueberries (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 2001-16A. **SDB**, 15" (41 cm), 2-3 buds, M. S. style arms, and F. pure white. Royal blue-violet (RHS 93C) spot on falls with white spike below beard; white beards tipped tangerine becoming darker in throat. Flared and slightly ruffled. Vigorous growth. Fertile both ways. Ajax the Less X 99-54A (Tweety Bird x 97-545A: (Baby Blessed X Pele)). **\$15**

Donna Hackman (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 2003-166DH. **TB**, 36" (91 cm), 7-9 buds, M. Bright yellow (RHS 7B/C) self, wide falls, flared, ruffled and slightly laced. Green under falls. White beards tipped yellow-orange becoming darker in the throat. Slight sweet fragrance. Beautiful garden clump of sturdy, well-branched showstalks. Vigorous growth and increase. Fertile both ways. Precious Harvest X Last Halo. **\$45**

Greenback Kid (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 2003-32B. **SDB**, 13" (33 CM), 2-3 buds, EM & **RE** (October in zone 6b). S. and F. light green (close to yellow-green RHS 151B) with darker green (151A) spot and veins. Style arms lavender blue, darker at crest and across stigmatic lips, and pink edges. Beards lavender-blue (91A) tipped mustard, darker in throat. Flared and slightly ruffled. Vigorous growth with rapid increase. Fertile both ways. Wise Willow X Senorita Frog. **\$15**

Jaime Delgado (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 96-908J. **TB**, 35" (89 cm), 7-9 bud showstalks, M. Complete cranberry self (blend of RHS 70A and 87A) except old gold edges on style arms and tangerine (34A) deep in throat on the beards. Lighter cranberry in center of wide falls. Horizontally flared, ruffled, fluted, and lightly laced. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. Enchanting X Little John. **\$45**

Karen Ann (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 2002-114B. **TB**, 37" (94 cm), 7-9 bud showstalks, M. S, style arms, and falls peach (close to RHS 43D), darker at the hafts and shoulders while lighter in center of falls. Triple socketed terminal bud. Beards red (43B). Semi-flared, ruffled, fluted and profusely laced with bubble lace. Fertile both ways. Paul Black X Heaven. **\$45**

Kayla's Song (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 2003-3A. **MDB**, 7" (17 cm), 1-2 buds, petite flowers and always in class, E. S. lavender blue (RHS 92B), style arms same with darker at midribs and tan edges; F. lavender blue with plum violet (77A) spot with darker (79B) veins. Beards light lavender blue tipped yellow-orange (23A) deep in throat. Slightly ruffled. Slight spicy fragrance. Floriferous. Pod fertile. Crown of Snow X My Kayla. **\$15**

Kooza (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 97-107A. **SA TB**, 35" (89 cm), 7-9 bud showstalks, L. S. and F. medium blue-violet (RHS 94C/D) with darker veins; style arms medium blue-violet edged pink, laced crests; beards orange (25A), short upturned fuzzy horns tipped medium violet-blue. Horns on every beard of every flower. Semiflared and ruffled. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. Sky and Sun X Potomac Fireworks. **\$45**

Mango Parfait (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 2002-137RE. **TB**, 33" (84 cm), 7-10 buds, EM & very dependable **RE** (September in zone 6b). Yellow- orange (RHS 23C) self, lighter around the orange (30A) beards with peach (38D) infusions in center of standards and deeper orange (28C) in style arm midribs. Ruffled and laced. Slight sweet fragrance. Vigorous growth. Fertile both ways. Roney's Encore X Eternal Bliss. **\$45**

Margaret Wilson Thomas (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 97-51A. **TB**, 34-37" (86-94 cm) 7-15 bud showstalks, EM & very dependable **RE** (October in zone 6b, bluer fall flowers). S. light lavender-blue (RHS 97D), darker at base (97A); style arms same, two darker (97A) midrib stripes; F. (97D) veined darker (97A) at hafts and shoulders, ruffled, flared; showy white beards tipped yellow in middle, deeper golden yellow in throat. Very vigorous growth. Wonderful sweet fragrance. Misty Twilight X 93-33C: (Lucie Andry x Chaste White). **\$45**

(CONTINUED) WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2009

Momma's Angel (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 2000-202GLACIATA **TB**, 36" (91 cm), 7-9 bud showstalks, EM. Magnificent pure white glaciata self except for hidden light yellow tips on beards deep in throat. Wide and fully ruffled, flared, and laced. Orchid-like substance. Slight sweet fragrance. Very vigorous growth. Fertile both ways. Mind Reader X Clarence. Reverse of cross that produced Daughter of Stars. **\$45**

Nimitz (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 2001-178NGLCTA. **TB**, 37" (94 cm), 7-9 bud showstalks, M. S. grayed lavender-blue (RHS 92C) with darker midribs, style arms same darker at midribs; F. violet blue (93 B). Beards lavender-blue and tipped orange (25A) deep in throat. Wide, overlapping falls, flared, highly ruffled and fluted, and lightly laced. Muscadine grape fragrance. Vigorous growth. Fertile both ways. Described by garden visitors as an updated Mystique. Honky Tonk Blues X Recurring Delight. **\$45**

Pied Peach. (G.Spoon). Sdlg. 2002-40VAR. **BB**, 25" (63.5 CM), 7 bud showstalks, ML. S. deep peach (RHS 31C), style arms same with darker midribs; F. deep peach (31C) with broken color streaks of violet (71A) at hafts and darker violet streaks (86B) in center of falls. Flared and very ruffled. White beards tipped red-orange. Slight floral fragrance. Raspberry Silk X Little John. **\$35**

Purple Joy (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 2003-32A. **SDB**, 14" (36 cm), 2-3 buds, EM & very dependable **RE** (October in zone 6b). S. violet (RHS 86A); style arms (86B), lighter (86D) edges; F. violet (86A), darker violet (nearly black) spot, lavender blue (92B) between violet veins beside beard; beards lavender blue (92B) tipped lighter (92D), orange in throat; slight spicy fragrance. Vigorous growth and increase. Fertile both ways. Wise Willow X Senorita Frog. **\$15**

Red Bunny (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 2003-24SIBX. **SDB**, 10" (25 cm), 2-3 buds, M. Bright red bitone with darker veins and red beards. Very floriferous and vigorous. Run across the yard garden clump. Sibling cross of Cerise Boy X Red Rabbit. **\$15**

Sariel (G.Spoon). Sdlg. 97-4LV. **TB**, 33" (84 cm), 7 buds, ML. S. light lavender (RHS 84D), darker (82C) bases, mid area, and veins; style arms (84D); F. same, darker lavender (82C) veins and hafts, white spike at end of beard; beards white tipped tangerine in middle, orange in throat; ruffled, flared, lightly laced; slight sweet fragrance. Orchid like substance. Exceptional parent. Fertile both ways. Lady Juliet X Little John. **\$45**

Secret Santa (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 99-367SCNT. **TB**, 35" (89 cm), 7-9 buds, ML. S. light lavender-pink, darker midline and veins; style arms same, lavender midrib.; F. plum violet (RHS 64A), light lavender-pink edges and midline, proximal upper 1/3 has white starburst markings, dark violet hairline edges; beards white tipped light tangerine at end, tangerine in middle, darker tangerine in throat; ruffled; very pleasant, pronounced, sweet floral fragrance. Best fragranced iris we have ever grown. Vigorous increaser. Fertile both ways. Fancy Woman X 97-174A: (Sara Marley sibling x 92-192B: (Autumn Joy x Pink Attraction)). **\$45**

Teagan (D.Spoon). Sdlg. 2005-611BLGR. **SDB**, 15" (38 cm), 2-3 buds, E & some **RE** (November in zone 6b). S. and style arms white. F. blue-green (RHS 115 C/D) with light edges and midline and yellow-green (Close to 151C) at hafts. True intense turquoise color break. Beards white tipped tangerine darkening in the throat. Slightly ruffled. Spicy fragrance. Fertile both ways. Winter Embrace X Karen Jones. **\$20**

Tina Louise (B. Spoon). Sdlg. 2002-B25A. **BB**, 25" (63.5 cm), 5-7 buds, M. S. and style arms russet. F. dark mahogany with small white sunburst and red-orange beards. Ruffled. E.C. as Best Seedling at C&P Iris Society Spring Show and AIS H.C. in 2008. Favorite of garden visitors. Tennessee Vol X Fiery Temper. **\$35**

Winter hardy, Northern Virginia, Allegheny Mountain range (zone 6b) hybridized bearded irises.

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WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2009



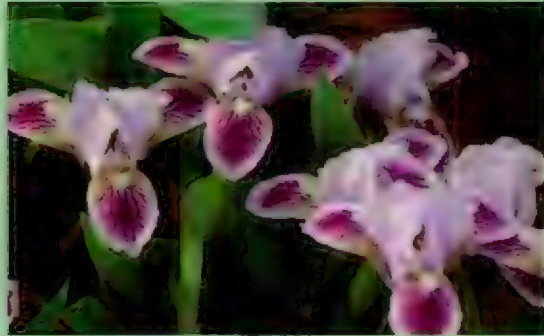
Anita Moran



Donna Hackman



Karen Ann



Kayla's Song



Kooza



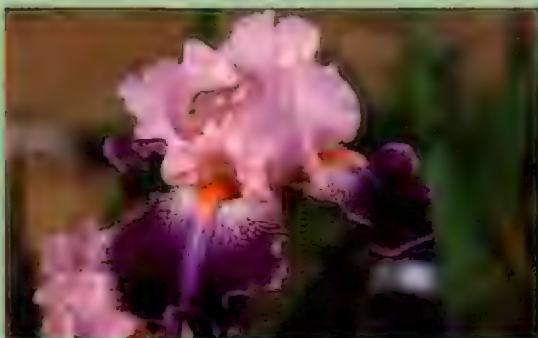
Nimitz



Pied Peach



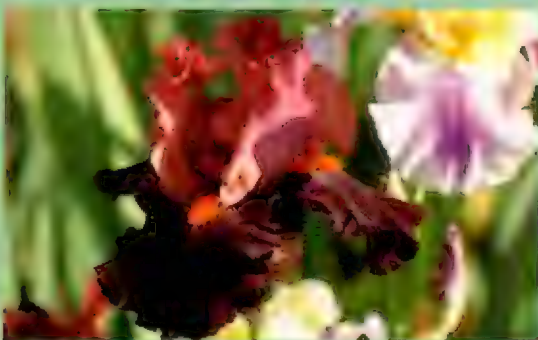
Red Bunny



Secret Santa



Teagan



Tina Louise



Wilma's Angel



ARVADA MIST (Jerry Hall) TB 36" ML Gold hafts with red cedar veining make a striking contrast to pale yellow-gold standards that softly set atop pale orchid falls with gold beards. Tall, well branched stalks and a fast multiplier. This iris will fill in an empty spot quickly. Named for my home town in Colorado. Sultry Mood X Capricious.....\$40.00

BUTTERSCOTCH BLUSH (D. Miller 2009) BB 26" EM A nice butterscotch iris with just a hint of “cheek” blush, the result of an off color joke. A good grower with nice branching and adequate buds. A thick, bushy golden butterscotch beard sets it off.....\$30.00

FROSTED JULEP (Magee 2009) TB 36" L Laced icy white standards and falls with a taste o’ mint. (Panamint/Mandolin/Strike Me Pink/Fair Luzon/Pink Sleigh) X (Sky Surf/Envious) EC 2004 & 2006.....\$40.00

HEATHER NOEL HALL (Jerry Hall 2009) TB 32" ML Smoky lavender standards rise tall above the pale lavender falls, which show a smoky lavender blaze with a wide yellow edge adorned with yellow beards. This ruffled iris with a sweet fragrance was named for my daughter. Honky Tonk Blues X Mystic’s Muse\$40.00

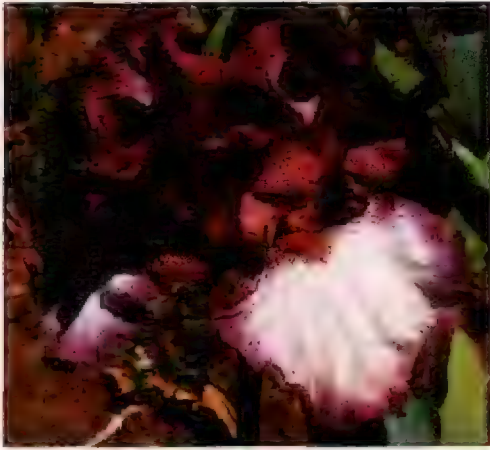
MULL IT OVER (D. Miller 2009) TB 34" E This mulberry plicata has 7 large blossoms and good sequence of bloom. Mull has good vigor, nicely branched, and strong sturdy stalks that all add up to make a good garden plant\$40.00

ROCKY ROAD (D. Miller 2009) TB 29" EM Who doesn’t like a small bowl of Rocky Road ice cream? This one has all the same colors with rich cream, chocolate to nutty veining browns, and sprinkle in a little cinnamon for taste. Rocky produces multiple stalks so expect a lot of bloom and a long bloom season. A rather small flower, but it makes up for it with vigor and lots of bloom. 5-9 buds\$40.00

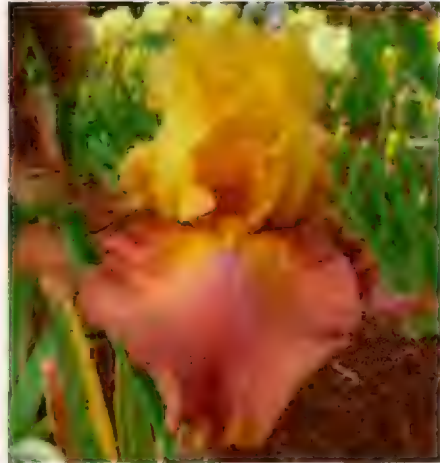
WIMBLEDON (Magee 2009) TB 32" M Ruffled tennis dress white standards and falls with green grass reflections. Sib to Frosted Julep. EC 2008.....\$40.00

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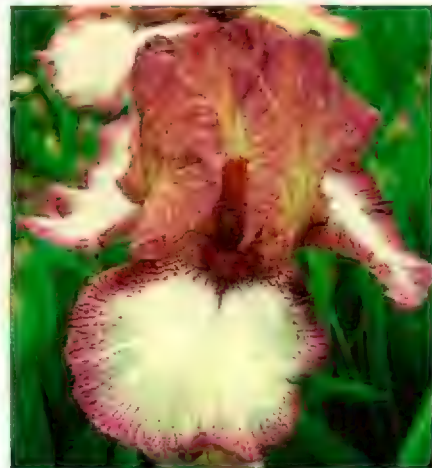
MULL IT OVER



ARVADA MIST

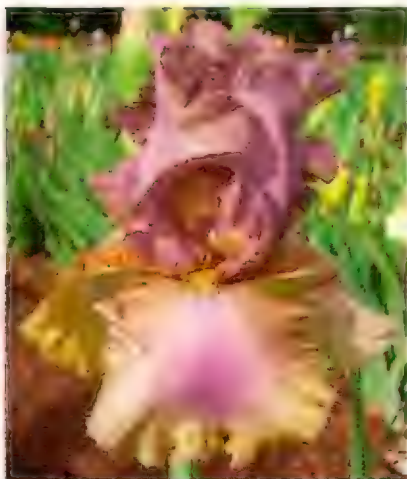


FROSTED JULEP



ROCKY ROAD

LONG'S GARDENS 2009 INTRODUCTIONS



HEATHER NOEL HALL



WIMBLEDON



BUTTERSCOTCH BLUSH

Abbey Gardens

2009 Introductions From Nancy Price



MIDNIGHT MOOD

IB -- \$20

Daughter of Stars x Neutron



DUKE NEIL DOVER

SDB – \$15

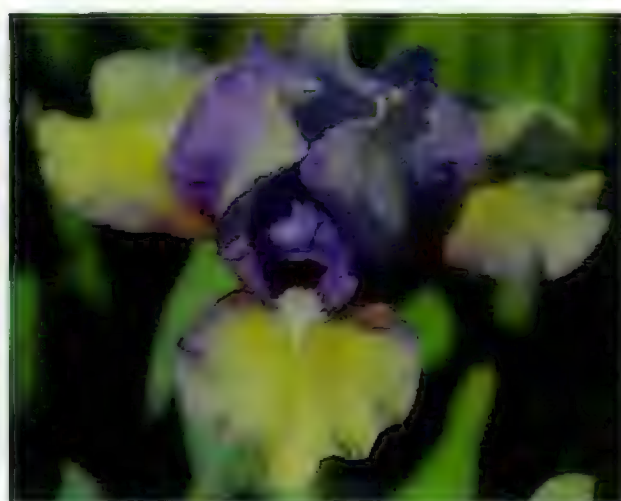
Gents in Tucks x Oxford Tweeds



LANDING STRIP

SDB – \$15

Vavoom x Starlight Waltz



ABBEY SONG

SDB – \$15

Vavoom x Starlight Waltz

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2009 INTRODUCTIONS *featured in the* Aril Society Plant Sale

Sale catalogs mailed to
ASI members in June

Left:

NORDIC SKY
(Howard Shockey)
OGB

Desert Attire sibling

Below:

BABYLON PRINCE
(Lowell Baumunk)
OGB-

(Nordic Sky X Smash)
Aril Median:
OGB X tet MTB



Fan's Iris Garden

14 Chestnut Drive, East Windsor, NJ 08510 ■ 609-448-7964

SASSY SAMANTHA

(Fan 2009)

(Modern Times X Unknown) TB, E.
32", 3 branches, 6 buds. Dusty rose
stands. Falls peppered dark raspberry
over dusty rose ground. Orange beards.



LACY LEMON (Fan 2009)

(Happenstance X Martile
Rowland) TB, E. 33", 3 branches
plus spur, 8 buds. Great parents
produced this superb addition to
the unusual class of laced yellows.

MEADOWGAZE

(Bushnell 2009)

(Princesse Caroline de Monaco X
Arctic Fox). TB, ML, 35". 4 or 5
branches yield up to 13 full-size
blooms on ultra-strong show stalks.
Dark sky-blue with faint violet haze,
maroon beards, beautifully ruffled.
Winner best seedling 2008 Region 19.



JERZY MARCHWINSKI

(Bushnell 2009). [(Grecian Skies
X Irene Nelson) X Arctic Fox].
TB, 36", ML. 3 branches, 8
buds. Cream-white, red beards.
Large blooms, flared and ruffled,
excellent grower.

\$35 each, any 2 for \$60, any 3 for \$75, any 4 for \$80. (Includes handling and postage.) Make check payable to Chun Fan.



NOBLE STATURE

(Hilton '06)

2007-08 "Contemporary Award" Winner
(Perry Dyer's "Contemporary Views")

George Hilton: 146 Julia Ave., Hamilton, NJ 08610: gahjr46@aol.com
\$20 incl, sh./hd.



Queen Empress
(Filardi '07)



Crest of the Wave
(Filardi '09)



Banana Cream Pie
(Filardi '07)



Avant-Première
(Bersillon '09)
Please Note: at 37",
Avant-Première is a TB
(not a BB as shown in
our January ad)

INTERNATIONAL IRIS

P.O. Box 18124
Portland, OR 97218-0124
bfilardi@comcast.net

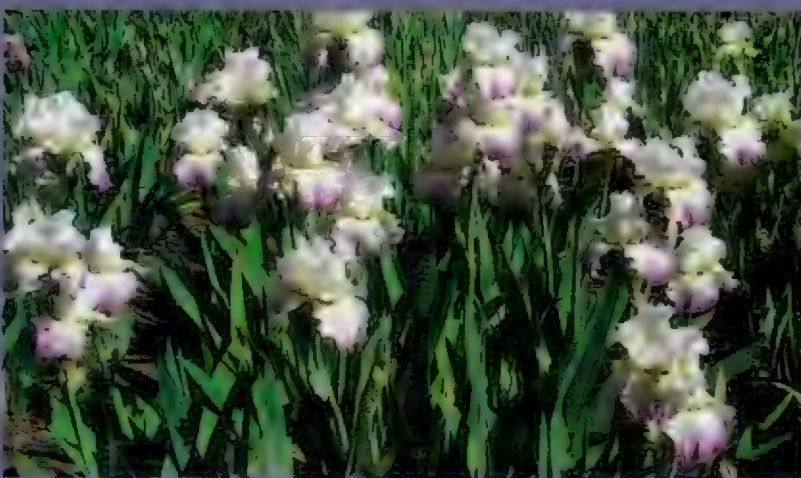


Photo: M. Beer

Pewter and Gold
(Filardi '06) HM '08

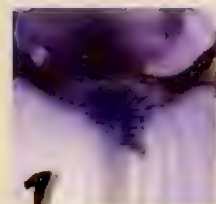
Available as e-mail attachments:

1. Info on intros and discounts
2. General TB pricelist
3. Historics & rarities list
4. Links to photos of all intros



Queen Empress at our field

Iris 4 U



Iris Garden



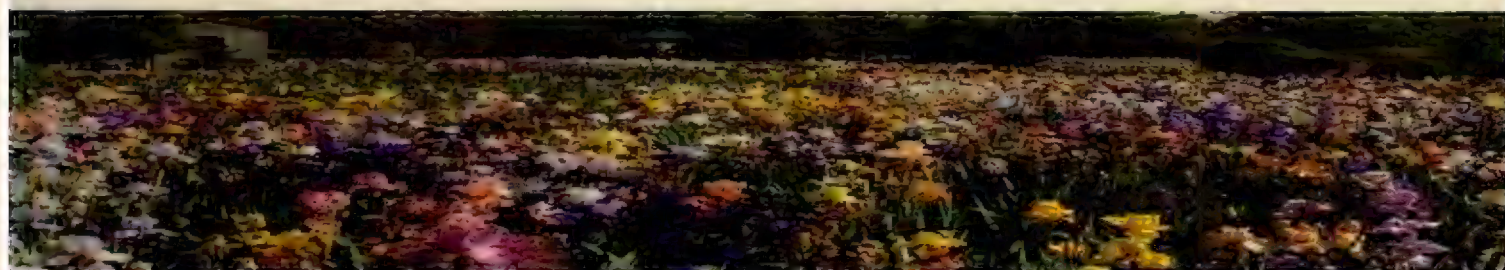
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Visit us online at
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We'll start taking online
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Denver, CO 80236





Belle de Provence (Baumunk '06) HM '08

Nine new iris introductions for 2009 at:

www.iriscolorado.com



Sheila Van Hook TB E 37" \$35.00

Seedling # C-04-V-01

(Hello Darkness X Epicenter)

Purple black standards, darker purple black falls, lighter purple area around the purple beards, tipped bronze, 9 to 12 buds.



Hint Of Dawn TB M 38" \$35.00

Seedling # D-06-V-01

(Conjuration X Seakist) EC in 03

Standards light yellow, falls light yellow with a red plum wash, and a lavender 1/8" outer edge, great branching and 7 to 9 buds, yellow beards.



Mystic Jewel TB M 37" \$35.00

Seedling # B-04-V-00

(Night Game X Picante) EC X 2 in 03

Standards dark plum purple, falls darker plum purple black, dark red beards. Great branching and has 7 to 9 buds, & purple base foliage.

2009 Tall Bearded Introductions

By: John Van Hook

157 Minnow Pond Road

Somerset, Kentucky 42503

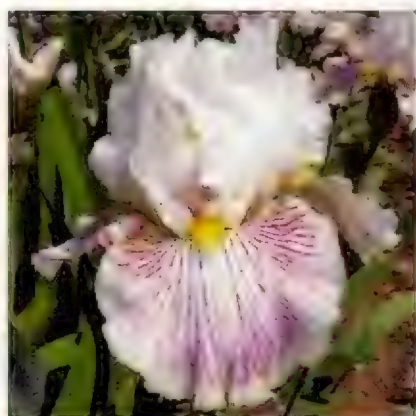


Lauer's Flowers

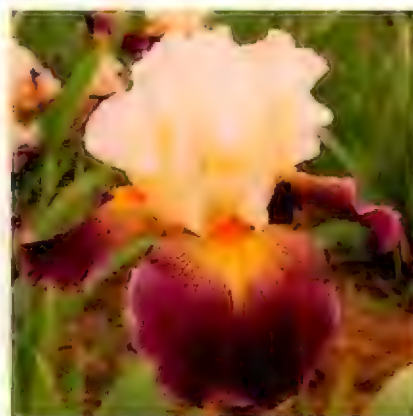
P.O. Box 183, Independence, OR 97351

(503) 838-1168 LauersIris@q.com

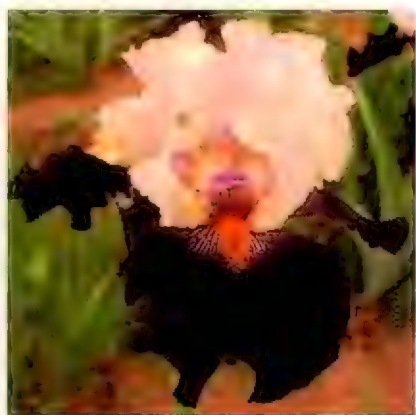
2009 Introductions



HEAD GAMES



LIKE A RAINBOW



MAIN STREET



MY GENERATION (R)



ROCK AND ROLL GIRL



THINK ABOUT IT

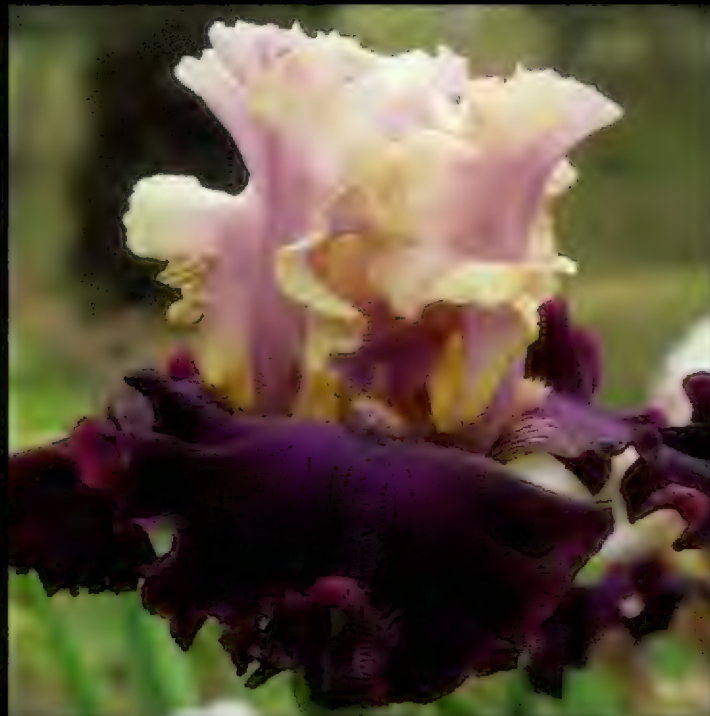
You may order any of these tall bearded irises at \$40 each plus \$7 for shipping & handling (California residents add 7.75% sales tax) or send \$1 for a colored list of the rest of my 2009 and past introductions.

Napa Country Iris Garden

2009 TB Introductions



Cosmic Celebration



Plum Wicked



Painted Lady Lavender



Fashion Magic

Visit our website www.napairis.com for more information on these and past Introductions. The online catalog has hundreds of color photos along with many informative pages. Easy ordering on the website or print the online order form to mail.

2009 Intros are \$45 each or any four (mix or match) for \$135.

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John & Lesley Painter

9087 Steele Canyon Rd., Napa, Ca. 94558

Ph 707-255-7880

Nola's Iris Garden

4195 Sierra Road San Jose, CA 95132

Phone: (408)-929-6307 Toll Free (888) 212-0811



Hidden Gem '09

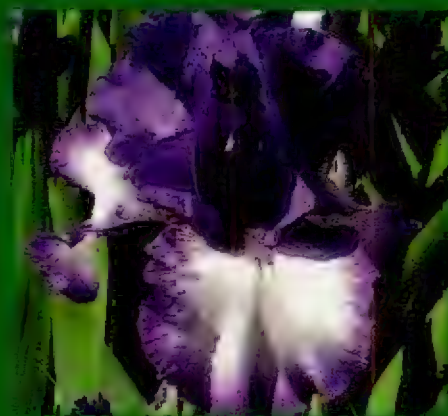


Got Spots '09

2009
Tall Bearded
Iris
Introductions
\$40.00



Promises Kept '09



Your Majesty '09

Introductions
by
Margie
Valenzuela



Birthday Magic '09



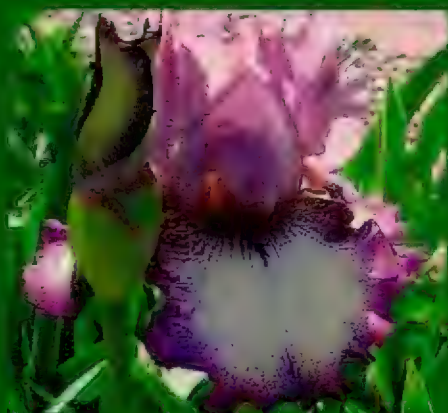
Pirates' Den '08 \$25.00

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on some
Varieties—
order early

2008
Tall Bearded
Iris
Introductions
25.00 ea.



Secret World '08 \$25.00



Easter Wonder '08 \$25.00

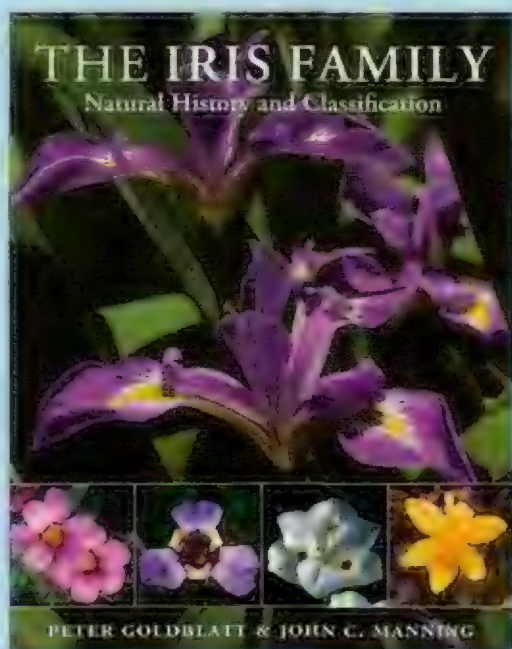
Online Catalog: <http://www.walking-p-bar.com/shopsite/>

'Gene's Lora Lavelle'

(Norris 2009) IB, 17.5" EM

S. mustard yellow fading lighter to lime green on midrib; F. beet red, blackish sheen fading to lighter at edge, yellow haft markings extending 1/5 of the way downward; beards dark gold, yellow in throat; gently ruffled; slight sweet fragrance. Tantrum X Blatant. \$20.00

Terrific performer, bud count 5-6, and occasional maroon flecking on standards make this a stellar garden plant. Named for Gene and Lora Lavelle Garr by their son Louis Garr of Van Buren, AR.



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the Iridaceae.**

ISBN: 978-0-88192-897-6, \$79.95

Peter Goldblatt is curator of African botany at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis and holds the International Bulb Society's Herbert Medal. John C. Manning is a research scientist at Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens in Cape Town and an accomplished botanical artist.



WWW.TIMBERPRESS.COM

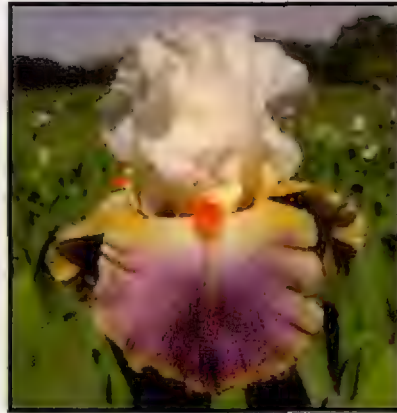
INTRODUCING FOR 2009



CAMERA READY

\$50.00

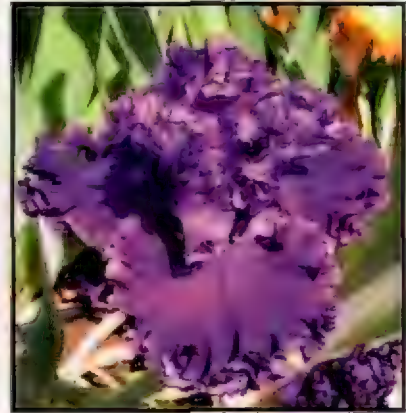
(Tasco '09) TB, 40", M.
Ostentatious X (Splash-
acata x Tanzanian Tang.)



FANTASY RIDE

\$50.00

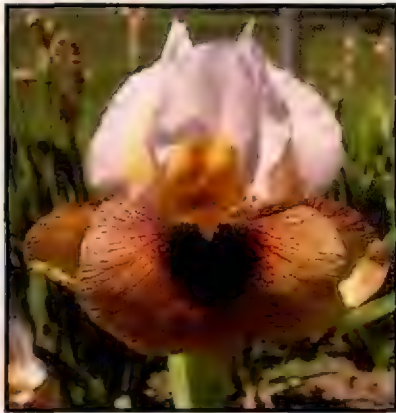
(Duncan '09) TB, 39", EM.
Quandary X Arctic Burst



HIGHLAND LORD

\$50.00

(Tasco '09) TB, 35", ML.
Shadows of Night X
Louisa's Song



AZTEC PRINCE

\$30.00 or 3/\$60.00

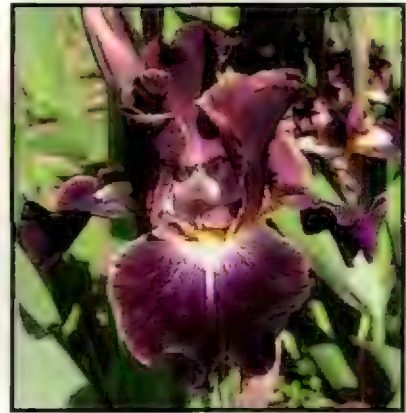
(Tasco '09) AB (OGB),
28", M. Energizer X
Bagdad's Folly



EXOTIC TREASURE

\$30.00 or 3/\$60.00

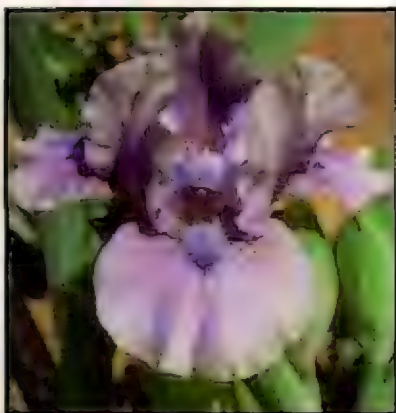
(Tasco '09) AB (OGB),
29", M. (Sheik X Bagdad's
Folly) X Desert Finery



MICRO BURST

\$20.00 or 3/\$40.00

(Tasco '09) IB, 25", M.
Mind Reader X Hoodlum



INNER SPACE

\$15.00 or 3/\$30.00

(Tasco '09) SDB/RE,
13", EM/RE. All That
Magic X Royal Overtime

SPECIAL: All seven 2009 intros pictured here
(a \$245 value) for only \$160.00

ATTENTION: AIS IRIS CLUBS/REGIONS – buy 1
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Louisianas, You're So Vein!

By Terry Aitken, Washington State

Unlike bearded iris where haft patterns were the issue, with Louisianas it is simply vein patterns – or not! How do veins contribute to the uniqueness of the flower? In almost all cases, veins seem to extend to the edge of the flowers and can be described as an exotic “marbling” effect. Other flowers sport solid colors with stunning color saturation.

Some of the smaller species are in high demand for use in pond culture or koi ponds. The two plants illustrated here are ‘Red Echo’ (in red) and ‘Bayou Bandit’ (in tan). Their flower forms are frequently referred to as “propeller form” or species form. Hybridizers have worked long and hard to close the gaps. The rationale is that domestic plants need to express as much color as possible to the viewing public/gardeners to justify their existence. For the sake of diversity, they all work and can contribute to the uniqueness of the plants and their specific settings.



Left: Red Echo (H. Rowlan 83)

Below: ‘Bayou Bandit’ (J. Weeks by Farron Campbell 98).

All photos this article: Terry Aitken





... Variations in Red



The red/orange overlay on a yellow ground distinguishes these two plants. Signal patterns, standards and styles all play an important part in making these two plants distinctive.

Top: 'Better Believe It' (Taylor 99) (with veins)

Bottom: 'Peaches in Wine' (H. Prior 98) (without veins)



... Variations in Pink



Smooth color application plus cream color on the reverse side with ruffling distinguishes these two plants. The vein pattern on 'Divorcee' can be described as "marbling".

Top: 'Barcoo' (Taylor 98)

Bottom: 'Divorcee' (Ghio 01)



... Variations in Blue



Smooth color blending to a near black halo around the sharply defined signal makes 'Beale Street' unique. Burgundy styles don't hurt either! Veining overlays a cream zonal pattern on blue-violet 'Image'. Near orange signals and creamy style arms are very distinctive. Throw in some ruffles for a pleasant image.

Top: 'Beale Street' (K. Vaughn 97)

Bottom: 'Image' (M. Dunn 99)



... Variations in Yellow



Luxurious overlapping falls with ruffles accented by orange signals completes this study of 'For Dad'. For 'Enviably', several shades of cream, pale yellow, deeper yellow and an orange signal plus the addition of burgundy veins results in a very unique plant.

Top: 'For Dad' (H. Prior 98)

Bottom: 'Enviably' (M. D. Faith 02)



.... Variations in Lavender



Veins on 'Queen Adelaide' give a marbling effect to the lavender while deeper veins bisect a strange green signal. Lively ruffles expose a reverse side of light lavender and matching petal rims. Strong signals determine the identity of 'Spice Attack', combined with ruffles that express the reverse side as cream.

Top: 'Queen Adelaide' (Jackson 02)

Bottom: 'Spice Attack' (Taylor 98)



... Variations in Orange



'Ginger Fudge' expresses a smooth ginger/orange application with a sharp yellow "arrow" signal. Ruffling exposes the yellow reverse side of the petals. 'Ginger Punch' has a very different effect with an orange overlay on a yellow ground with green signals.

Top: 'Ginger Fudge' (H. Prior 98)

Bottom: 'Ginger Punch' (Morgan 99)



All photos: Baumunk
(except as marked)

Left: 'Persian Sapphire'

Below: 'Aladdin's Gem'



Experiments with Small Arilbreds

(SDB X Arilpum) Quarterbreds



Left: 342H (Cat's Eye X Aladdin's Gem)

Middle: 342J (Cat's Eye X Aladdin's Gem)

Right: Baumunk 227F (Aladdin's Gem X Pele)

(Full-sized Halfbred X Arilpum) Halfbreds:

57

323A (Turkish Heart X Aladdin's Gem)



Photo: Patrice VanVleet



(Full-sized Halfbred X tetraploid MTB) Quarterbreds:

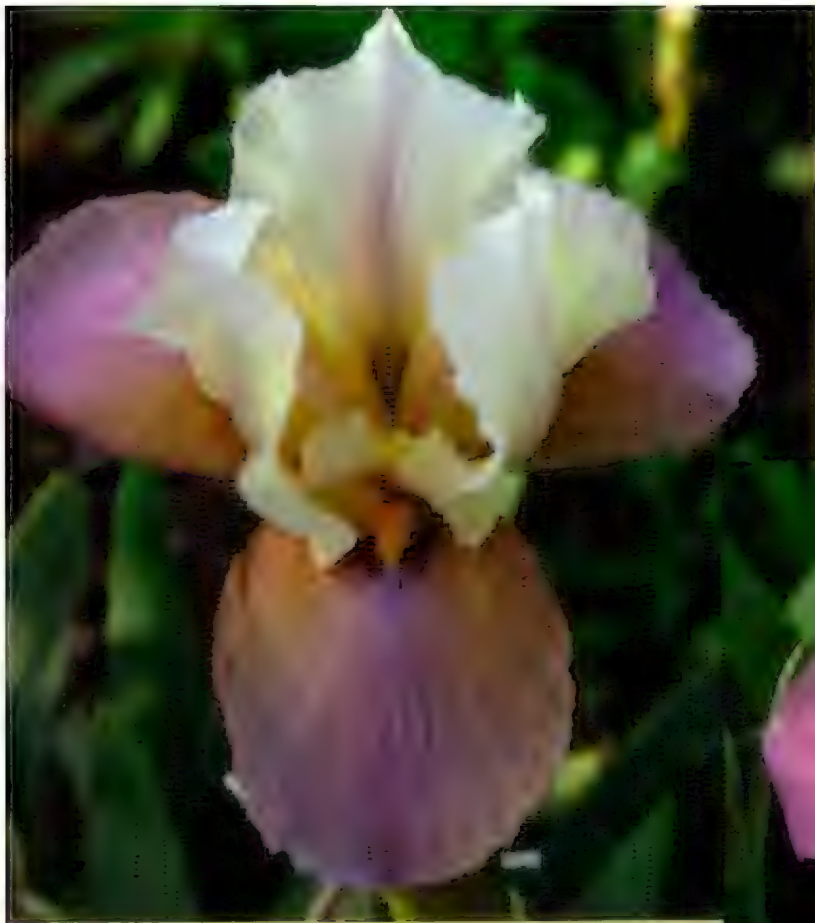
'Babylon Prince'



(Pure Aril X diploid MTB) Diploid Halfbreds:

'Hamurabi' ('04)





OGB X tet MTB seedlings showing virtually no aril characteristics.

Left: 340B -Babylon Prince sibling

Below: 344 (Byzantine Art X Smash)



Photo: L. Bauman



Photo: Leonard Jedlicka



Photo: Leonard Jedlicka

Contemporary Views

(see article, page 72)

Previous page, bottom: 'Capitol Debut'

This page, top left: 'Angelic Whispers'

Top right: 'Osseo'

Below left: 'Noble Stature' (Hilton 2006)

Below right: 'County Cork'



Photo: P. Dyer



Photo: Altken



Photo: L. Baumunk

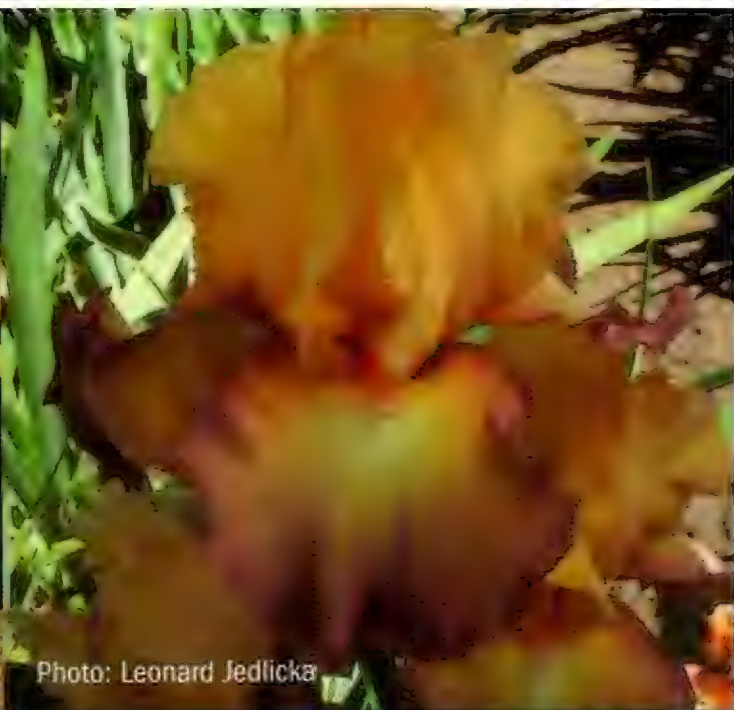


Photo: Leonard Jedlicka



Photo: Aitken



Photo: Aitken

Top: Left 'Belle de Provence' Right: 'Citoyen'
 Middle: Left: 'Polished Bronze' Right 'Prime Power'
 Below: 'Polestar'



Photo: Hugh Savin



Photo: K. Norris

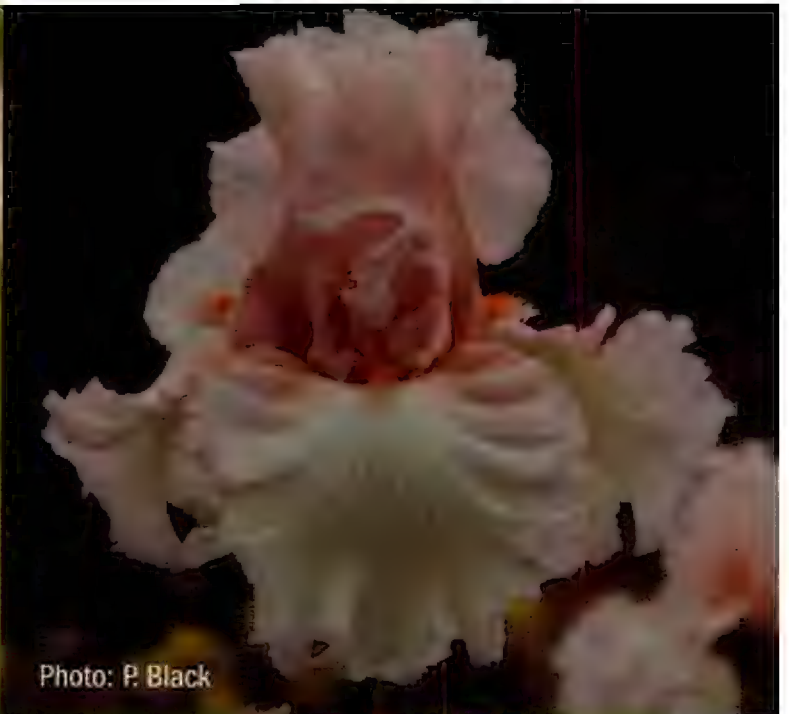


Photo: P. Black



Photo: Aitken



Photo: Aitken

Top: Left 'Rachel Julia' Right: 'Picture Book'

Middle: Left 'Absolute Joy' Right 'Refiner's Fire'

Bottom: Left 'Oasis Lorna' Right 'Sun Power'



Photo: K. Norris

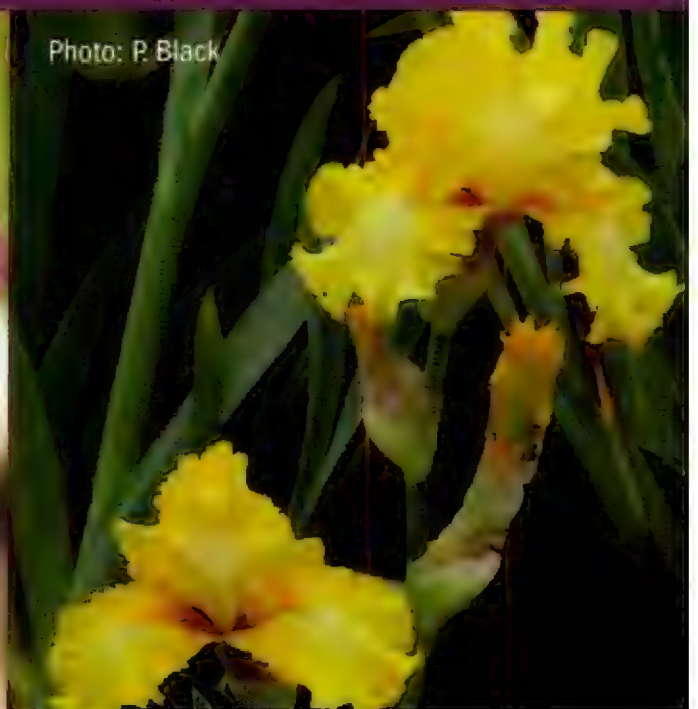


Photo: P. Black



Top: Left 'Cape Perpetua' (Schreiner '06) Right 'Saturn' (T. Johnson '05)

Below: Left 'Christmas Present' Right 'Forever Blowing Bubbles'



Design Corner

By Carolyn Hawkins, Georgia

As the show season nears, it is time to think of themes for the show and classes for designs. I realize that this article probably will be published too late for you to use these in early spring shows but you might want to save them for future use and inspiration. These are from Flower Show Themes by Dorothy Biddle. It is an old book but worth its weight in gold to give help when ideas just won't come to mind. Use them any way you wish. Call me if you have any questions. I plan to print more theme and classes in future articles. (770) 471-2841)

Theme: SALUTE TO THE COLORS: design classes: Color Guard, Anchors Away, Air Corps, Pin-up Girl, At Ease, and Volunteer Duty. One society recently used all of the branches of the present day U.S. Military Services.

Theme: A FLORAL CIRCUS: design classes: Let's go to the Circus (with What Shall I Wear, Shall We Sit up High, Ringside Seats, Cotton Candy & Popcorn), The Band Concert (and you could list appropriate songs), Aerialists Take Over (and you could list Butterflies in the Air, Parasol for Balance, Like a Blue Streak, Perfect as a New Moon, Take a Bow as sub-classes). This theme listed many possibilities.

Theme: FAMILIAR PROVERBS: design classes: Finders Keepers, Big Oaks from Little Acorns Grow (this could be a two-container design), Every Dog has his Day, Don't Put all your Eggs in One Basket and ask for two related baskets, one larger than the other—another two-container design. Birds of a Feather Flock Together.

Theme: AROUND THE WORLD WITH IRIS: design classes: Emerald Isle, The French Fleur de Lis, Drifting on the China Sea, Tropical Splendor, Hawaii Calls, Down Mexico Way, Lure of the Desert.

As you look at the designs in this article look for balance, dominance of some component, contrast, rhythm, proportion (ratio between areas and amounts to each other and to the whole) and scale (plants to foliage—size relationships, etc.). Refer to the AIS Handbook for Judges and Show Officials, 2007 Edition, pages 223-224.

Copper, Copper Everywhere! This design sports a creative use of copper tubing, an old piece of copper roofing, which adds texture, and pure copper pieces in front. The copper pieces are from a copper mine where it sometimes is actually in sheets and not mixed within rock—pure copper. The peach-colored blooms blend with the copper and have the



foliage and blue background as contrast.

By the Sea, By the Shining Sea! The large glass vase is used upside down to create the undersea feeling for the iris. Shells and some Spanish moss add to the design. Note the vase, which is at least 20" high, is turned to see the corner and not positioned as a flat front. The iris foliage in the back adds some depth. Tall bearded iris blooms will not survive under water so this design gives that feeling without compromising the flowers.

Loop the Loop! The ovals in the sculpture define the theme. The use of a black, woven, satiny cord gives some bold and rhythmic direction to the flow of the design. The white flowers offer contrast. Note there is only one piece of foliage connected to a bloom stalk. This sculpture is a difficult one to use as the ovals are busy and dominate any plant material. As you look at it see if you agree. If you have any such component I suggest you use very bold materials with it to soften its control of the design.

Sea and Surf Beckon! The finger sponge creates a strong line and upward rhythm. The crock container is diminished somewhat with coral and shells, etc. to "cut" its size and dominance. The purple iris blooms are placed in the back of the design for depth—would one or two in placed front help the design—yes, I think so. A metallic shell-shaped platter is placed in the back of the design, the edges of which are barely visible. The green netting is an interesting component to assist with the proportion of the design to the space.

Enjoy your spring iris shows and hopefully all of you have included Artistic Divisions. They allow creative opportunities for your members, as well as an enhancement to the show. Visitors always enjoy seeing how iris can be used in designs.



The American Iris Society

2009 Photo Contest

AIS invites you again to participate in our annual Photo Contest. This contest is open to everyone and is free to enter, except that Judges and the contest chairperson are not eligible to enter or win. The winning photo of each category will be published in the AIS Bulletin and on the AIS web site. Prior year's winners and honorable mentions can be viewed at www.irisphotocontest.org. **The 2009 winner of each category will receive a 2009 introduction from The Greater Kansas City Iris Society (AIS Convention host).** The winner of each category will also receive a single annual membership or annual membership extension to AIS. Winners who are AIS life members will receive an annual membership in an AIS Section of their choice. Runner ups of each category will receive a 2007-2008 introduction.

How to Enter:

Simply fill out the entry form and send it with your photos to AIS at the address below. You may submit up to five photos in one contest. The deadline for submissions to the 2009 Photo Contest is June 30, 2009.

Irises in photos should be of the genus *Iris*. Entries will be selected and judged in seven (7) categories:

1. Irises used in a landscaped garden.
2. Irises in a field or home garden.
3. Events, tours, a person or people (at iris location), shows.
4. Close up of an iris or irises.
5. Iris photos with art effects, macro photos of bloom segments.
6. Photos of pets, wildlife or garden art in the irises.
7. Any category taken by a youth photographer (under 19).

Please do not send any photo smaller than 4 x 6 inches, nor larger than 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 (half page) **The ideal size is 5 x 7.** If you are using a digital camera, it is suggested that you take your photos in 360dpi **or higher** resolution, and we ask that you print and submit your photos on photo paper. Please avoid writing or labeling on the back of the photo, unless to identify a variety or person in the photo.

A panel of three judges will judge photos received and their decisions will be final. At the discretion of the judges, photos not selected in the current contest may be held for further consideration in future contests. Please provide AIS with a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the photos returned. Photos will otherwise not be returned and may be destroyed when not selected.

Where to send your photos and entry:

The American Iris Society Photo Contest, c/o Kitty Loberg, 1900 Mountain View Lane, Redwood Valley, Calif. 95470, Send inquiries to iris.loberg@comcast.net.

Entry Form:

Photo caption name(s) and names of persons in photos, if any (for reference purposes)

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

#4 _____

#5 _____

Youth: If this is a **youth** entry, please tell us your age: _____

I am the person who took the photographs(s) enclosed, and I have not assigned any of my rights associated with these photographs to any third party. By entering the photo contest I am hereby authorizing The American Iris Society a royalty free, non-exclusive right to use winning photograph(s) and photograph(s) worthy of honorable mention in publications, in brochures, and calendars, on the Internet, and for other promotional uses.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (_____) _____

(Receipt of photos will be acknowledged by email. Please provide a SASE if you want a receipt by mail.)

AIS Calendar:

CONVENTIONS

2009: May 11-16

Kansas City, MO
Chair: Debora Hughes
3395 Utah Road
Wellsville, KS 66092
(785) 883-4737
dhughes936@myvine.com

Headquarters:

Doubletree Hotel Overland Park
10100 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 451-6100

2010: May 31-June 5

Madison, WI
Chair: John Baker
4601 CTH TT
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
(608) 825-7423
johnwbaker1@verizon.net

Headquarters:

Madison Marriott West Hotel
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive
Middleton, WI 53562
(608) 831-2000

2011: May 30-June 4

Victoria, BC CANADA
Chair: Ted E. Baker
185 Furness Rd.
Salt Spring Island, BC
CANADA, V8K 1Z7
(250)653-4430
tedebaker@shaw.ca

2012: Apr 16-21

Ontario, CA
Co-Chairs:
Kathy Chilton
14333 S. Stagecoach Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85736
(520) 822-1497
Ranchiris@aol.com

Jill Bonino
3110 Kirkham Drice
Glendale, CA 91206
(818) 790-3256
aistreas@earthlink.net

FALL BOARD MEETINGS

2009: Nov 6 - 8

Tulsa, OK
Chair: Paul W. Gossett
129 East 33rd Place
Tulsa, OK 74105-2542
(918) 742-1204
pwgossett@juno.com

2010:

Portland, OR
Chair: Terry Aitken
608 NW 119th Street
Vancouver, WA 98685-3802
(360) 573-4472
terry@flowerfantasy.net 

Errata:

As with all human-guided enterprises, mistakes are bound to occur. Vigilance is certainly something to aspire to, and with your help we'll make a strong go of it. The *Bulletin* staff acknowledges the following errata in the January 2009 issue, with apologies, thanks to the keen eyes of observant readers like you.

The International Competition for Tall Bearded Irises credited on page 44 was actually the Russian Iris Society's International Competition (for more information see Anna Cadd's article in the April 2009 issue). The photo credits were also reversed as most might have guessed. 'Italian Ice' appeared above and 'Black Mercury' appeared at right.

Co-Editor Terry Aitken wanted to point out for the benefit of readers that the cultivars pictured on pages 56 and 57 were 'Imprimis' (pg. 56) and 'Silverado' (pg. 57). These photos were taken at Schreiner's Iris Garden in Oregon.

Careful proofreaders caught typos in the book review by Clarence Mahan. Montrose Gardens should've been Melrose Gardens, referring of course to Ben Hager and Sid Dubose's southern California garden. Mahan also reports that Mary Pickford and Charlie Chaplin (not Chapman) visited the Farr's nursery. On pg. 77 the year 1908 is used but couldn't possibly mesh with the time frame referred to in the paragraph before. An intelligent guess might better place the date as 1928.

And finally due to a preponderance of miscommunication and confusion, a number of errors were found in the 2008 AIS Exhibitions report. The *Bulletin* thanks Jayme Adams, Rita Gormley, Jim Morris, and all the RVPs that thoroughly reviewed the report in search of minute, yet important errors. The corrected table is as follows:

Reg	Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Design entered by	Artistic Sweepstakes	Commercial Winner	Educational Winner
3	5/17	Pittsburgh, PA	MTB	New Idea	Mike Corle	Mike Corle	Linda Jablonski	Iris Cisarek	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5/24	Media, PA	Spec	I. setosa	Gary Slagle	Gary Slagle	Carol Ann Moyer	Cynthia LaPara	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6/21	York, PA	JI	Ink On Ice	Harold Griffie	Harold Griffie	Jane Bury	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5/18	Muncie, IN	MTB	Pink-All-Over	Mary Lou Swann -Young	William & Norma Garner	Mary Lou Swann -Young	Betty Rogers	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5/24	Grand Rapids, MI	TB	Summer Olympics	Mike Chesebro	Mike Chesebro	Tim Rausch	Virginia Smith	Ruth Levanduski	N/A	N/A
	5/31	Portage, MI	Spec	I. tectorum	Jim Welch	Jim & Jill Copeland	Miki Holder	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5/31	Indianapolis, IN	MTB	Pardner	Jim Poor	Jim Poor	Janet Wilke	Mary Lou Swann -Young	Mary Lou Swann -Young	N/A	N/A
	5/10	Paris, TN	MTB	Siren	Badger & Carol Ann Carney	Badger & Carol Ann Carney	Earnie & Debbie Royal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
18	4/27	Wichita, KS	IB	Starwoman	Sherryl Fitzpatrick	Kendal Rohr	John Baumfold	Floanna Crowley	Sherryl Fitzpatrick	N/A	N/A
18	5/11	Wichita, KS	TB	Hello Darkness	Jerry Richardson	Kendal Rohr	Jerry Richardson	Floanna Crowley	Floanna Crowley	N/A	N/A
18	5/25	Wichita, KS	MTB	Bold Imp	Patricia Ardisonne	Patricia Ardisonne	Sherryl Fitzpatrick	Sherryl Fitzpatrick	Sherryl Fitzpatrick	N/A	N/A
	4/12	Walnut Creek, CA	Spec	I. confusa	David Shaw	Ryan Grisso	Ken Walker	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4/27	Springfield, MO	SDB	Smart	Kristin Secrest (Y)	Calvin Helsley	Kristin Secrest (Y)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5/10	Overland Park, KS	IB	Blackcurrant	Debbie Hughes	Jerry Hoke	Debbie Hughes	Debbie Hughes	N/A	N/A	N/A
21	5/17	Lincoln, NE	IB	Gnu Rayz	Gary White	Gary White	Linda Rader	Jean Pedersen	Jean Pedersen	N/A	Dottie Ladman
	4/27	Albuquerque, NM	AB	Desert Fire	Valerie White	Valerie White	Helen Radebaugh	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
14	5/3	Auburn, CA	TB	Chuckles	Kadee Felton	Kadee Felton	N/A				
22	4/26	Lawton, OK	TB	Stairway To Heaven	Ryan Miller	Dylan Hooker-Kyle	Eric & Ryan Miller				

TYPE	HYBRIDIZER	SEEDLING	Show Location	Date
TB	Dan and Nancy Elliott	46-24-09	Cape Girardeau, MO	10-May-08

Request for Bearded Iris

AIS Convention: IRIS-istable Victoria 2011

The British Columbia Iris Society will host the American Iris Society Convention in late May through early June 2011. Hybridizers are invited to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings of bearded irises under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises.

1. Up to three rhizomes of each variety will be accepted up to a total of 75 rhizomes per hybridizer.
2. Guest irises shipped directly to Canada will be accepted from July 15 to August 15th, 2009.

Please send plants to:

Karen Phillips, Guest Iris Chair
2-840 Pemberton Road; Victoria BC, V8S 3R4; CANADA

These plants must have a Phytosanitary certificate attached to the outside of the carton, and should be marked as a donated GIFT for exhibition purposes, value not to exceed \$25.00.

3. As an alternative, guest iris can be shipped within the United States to a central collection point and will be accepted from July 15th to July 30th, 2009. (Contact Aitken's at (360) 573 4472 or by e-mail (terry@flowerfantasy.net) with any shipping question) Plants received after this date will be forwarded to Karen Phillips at the owner's/hybridizer's expense.

Please send plants to:

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden
608 NW 119th St.; Vancouver, WA 98685

IMPORTANT: All irises entering Canada from the USA or other countries must have a Phytosanitary Certificate obtained by the garden of origin. If sent to the collection point within the U.S., the Phytosanitary certificate should be inserted inside the sealed carton. Please include a statement that these plants are a donated GIFT for exhibition purposes with a value not to exceed \$25.00.

Also, the identification number of the Phytosanitary Certificate must be sent to Ted Baker at <tedebaker@shaw.ca or by phone at 250-653-4430 as soon as the package is mailed. This information is required by customs to get the plants into Canada.

4. The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each plant on a separate packing list:
 - a. Hybridizer's name and address, telephone number, and/or e-mail address.
 - b. Name or seedling number of the variety.
 - c. Type of iris [TB, BB, IB, AB, SDB. Etc.]
 - d. Height, color, distinguishing features, and bloom season [EML]
 - e. Year of introduction [if introduced].
 - f. A photo or digital image of the iris bloom would be helpful.
5. If a guest seedling is named, it is the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chair no later than December 1, 2010.
6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the distribution of plants. Failure to reply by June 15th will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and distribute named varieties, one to the garden owner and the rest to the BC Iris Society, a non-profit organization. Requested return of guest plants with Canadian addresses will be shipped freight paid. Requested return of guest plants from outside of Canada will be charged for shipping and Phytosanitary certificates.
7. The Convention Committee and the owners of host gardens will strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.
8. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only irises received through the Guest Iris Chairperson will be listed in the Convention Booklet. 

Contemporary Views –

2007/2008, Part I

By Perry Dyer, Oklahoma

[Ed. Note-Due to space constraints, we'll run Perry's commentary in segments across the next three issues.]

This edition of Contemporary Views includes evaluations from the 2007 AIS National Convention here in Oklahoma City; the Median Iris Society's Prairie Gold Convention, hosted by the Lincoln (Nebraska) Iris Society, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Median Iris Society; the 2008 AIS National Convention in Austin; the 2008 Aril Trek in Albuquerque; and the Region 4 Spring Meeting in Winchester, VA, where I was guest speaker and judges training clinician. A considerable amount of notes were taken in some of the main gardens in the weeks prior to the week of the OKC convention, so you will find many reviewed which probably weren't even seen during the convention.

AWARD WINNERS

1. Contemporary Award—

To the Best New Iris seen (one introduced within the past 3 years of the date of this review): **'Noble Stature'** (George Hilton 06, TB) is a divine new offering from a new hybridizer from New Jersey. From a simple, classical cross of two Dykes Medalists, 'Song of Norway' (Luihn 79, TB) X 'Silverado' (Schreiner 87, TB), this new silvery-white holds its own with its contemporaries. It has the large, full form of 'Silverado' with more of an icy look to its nature with shimmering blue undertones. Deep well-positioned ruffles abound throughout the flower, and it possesses toughness and resiliency in its substance. As you should expect from such a royal lineage, indeed it has superlative 'Song of Norway' branching, tall and stately, with 3-4 branches. The thick strong stalks never waiver from the weight of 3 huge blossoms opening simultaneously, a common sight in this variety. Not just another white – it has flawless plant qualities and a very sophisticated flower.

Runners-up:

'Saturn' (T. Johnson 05, TB), unfortunately, peaked the weekend before the Oklahoma City convention, with a "Cup Clump" in

spectacular bloom at the garden at the State Capitol. Nonetheless, it still was giving a fine show on tour day, and looked good in other area gardens also. Suave and sophisticated, it is a rich black-cherry bitone, a full shade deeper in the falls. Yet another outstanding child of the great parent, 'Romantic Evening' (Ghio 96, TB), and the burnt orange beards belie its lineage. From its other parent, 'Naples' (Johnson 01, TB) (one of Thomas' first introductions, and a great one in its own right), 'Saturn' inherited impeccable branching and placement on its moderate height stalks. The sequencing of its buds is especially impressive, ensuring an outstanding season of bloom. Its velvet pile and its resistance to waterspotting are especially meritorious. **'Refiner's Fire'** (McGrath 07, OGB) was the star of the Albuquerque Aril/Median Trek, and received my vote for Favorite Arilbred. This rich, deep half-bred reminds me of a more modern, larger, more globular version of its great parent, 'Babylonian Fires' (Rich-Whitely 92, OGB). The base color is rich deep orchid-lavender, with the falls taken hostage with a huge, dazzling burgundy-red signal patch. A closer look reveals a delicate but intricate network of bronze, even approaching orange, veining, which is further enhanced as the color of the style arms. This adds the warmth of a fire opal to the color array, and gives great carrying power across the garden. Big and bold, with typical globular onco shape. Retains its rich colors even in the high-elevation, dry climate of central New Mexico.

Any iris that could survive the devastating – indeed tragic – late freeze of Nebraska deserves to be noted. But for a variety to perform admirably in all three gardens in which it was guested was truly miraculous. **'Absolute Joy'** (Aitken 06, SDB) carried riotous colors with bravura, with bright pink standards and falls, then the falls appliquéd with a screaming rich fuchsia spot pattern in the center, made even more dramatic with intensified veining within the spot. Bright, deep, thick pink beards complete the color array. Obviously from the 'Pele' (Aitken 93, SDB) lineage, it has a cleaner color presentation, wider, better developed form, and improved substance. The horizontal falls also have a gentle amount of waving to add to the lilt of the flower. In spite of the freeze, stalks consistently carried 1 branch and 2 buds, with nice, thin 'Pele'-type foliage, a touch tall at times but graceful and pleasing. Imagine how impressive it will be in a "normal" season. **'Midnight Vigil'** (Stahly 05, TB) was one of the great surprises for me at the OKC Convention, and frankly, I was disappointed it didn't receive more ballyhoo. Rico suave! It is a totally different style of black than found in the popular Schreiner blacks, and even different from previous, excellent offerings in black from this hybridizer. Flowers are quite large, fully saturated in jet black, even in the standards (where you might usually expect deep-deep violet instead of black). Superlative

ratings in all the important categories: Excellent velvet texture and thick substance; tall stalks holding up multiple blossoms with 3 branches plus spur; impressive growth habits, with deep green foliage making a stunning clump, with a superb bloom/ increase ratio.

2. L'elegante Award—

To the New Iris with the most beautiful individual flower seen: **'Christmas Present'** (Ghio 07, TB) simply captivated me at the Austin Convention. Described by the hybridizer as a blue-orchid, reminiscent of the historic work in this color of the famed pioneer, Orville Fay, to my eye it was a crystalline pure lilac, a surprisingly rare color in modern irises. It literally shimmered in the sunlight. Beautiful wide form embellished with sculpted, sophisticated ruffling throughout. Stalks carried 3 branches in modified candelabra with perfect spacing over the stalk. Growth was acceptable, but appeared to be suspect in blooming too heavily – further evaluation required to be sure. It reminds me in style of the plethora of dark-tops from the 'Fogbound' (Keppel 98, TB) line on the market today; yet I find its total self presentation to be refreshing.

Runners-up:

'Forever Blowing Bubbles' (Ghio 07, TB) is a drop-dead gorgeous pure white with leathery substance yet an eloquent satin texture. I never grow weary with the offerings Mr. Ghio's bubble-ruffling line of work produces, and with this variety, we have the ultimate in deep, dramatic ruffling and fluting that is well positioned and consistent throughout the flower. A massive clump (translation – GOOD GROWER) in full bloom at the master planting in OKC at the national convention was memorable. Branching was a bit close to the stalk, but may have been as asset, in that there were so many stalks with multiple blossoms open, yet they all opened properly and did not interfere with each other. **'Belle de Provence'** (Baumunk 06, TB) is a delicious debutante in soft peach-apricot. The standards have a slight flush of pink in the midribs. The falls are warm white, slightly melded with warm butter yellow, then banded with the primary hues, deeply embedded in tight, sophisticated, intense ruffling. Medium orange beards allow the eye to focus and appreciate the subtle gradations of color. The master planting in OKC produced a huge clump with thick, healthy foliage, with good spacing of stalks throughout. Nicely branched stalks carried 3 branches, double-socketed. Don't let the delicate appearance fool you – substance is substantial; the flowers hold up well to varying climate conditions.

'Angelic Whispers' (A. Hahn 06, TB) is just gorgeous, a heavily laced cold white with just a suggestion of a blush of lilac in the heart

of the flower. Form is wide and sophisticated. The flowers have heavy substance, yet, in spite of the intensity of ruffling and lace, do not tear their blooms as they open. Very late blooming (had just started blooming the second day of the OKC national convention), with magnificent formal candelabra branching, 3 branches, mostly double-socketed. It is an average increaser with notably impressive plant habits – many laced whites have foliage with a weak “watery” look about them – not so here. **‘Picture Book’** (Ghio 07, TB) was magnificent on first-year bloom at the Will Rogers Garden in OKC in 2006. A continuation in a legacy of glorious pinks from this master, the growth habits were notably far superior than many of its predecessors. A luxurious shade of purest medium satin pink, with the intensity and depth of color of the great Dykes Medalist, **‘Pink Taffeta’** (Rudolph 68, TB), with ruffling and lace so deeply embedded you would swear it would have difficulty in opening. Even in the cool spring of 2006 here, each flower opened without even a suggestion of tearing or twisting. Wonderful branching and double sockets were a nice extension of plants full of stamina.

3. 9-1-1 Award—

To the new iris that is, in my opinion, the most significant hybridizing achievement or color break: **‘County Cork’** (Schreiner 07, TB) was reviewed last year after an impressive appearance at the Portland National Convention. I made special note to keep an eye out for it in Oklahoma to see if the unique coloring held in a different climate. I was so enamored that I have elevated it to “winner”! This ethereal yellow is a wonderful advancement in the quest for green irises. The intriguing lime green haze, so prominent in the cool weather of the Pacific Northwest, carried over to central Oklahoma, observed both on a cloudy day and in full sun. It is a complete package, in that the growth habits are superior, and the stalks are consistently well branched. Where so many previous green attempts have been “muddy”, this new iris is captivating and appealing in the garden.

Runners-up:

‘Oasis Lorna’ (Chadwick 2005) is another superb color breaker from this recently deceased Idaho hybridizer. It reminded me of the quality of Keith’s **‘Oasis Patches’** (TB,02) , with perhaps even more decorative streaking and splotching. Instead of purple-on-pink as found in its father, **‘Isn’t This Something’** (Ensminger 93, TB) and **‘Oasis Patches’**, the base color here is a rich burgundy wine then streaked in a fireworks display of white and silver. It reminded me of a glorified **‘Bewilderbeast’** (Kasperek 95, TB) with cleaner, brighter coloration. As with many color

breakers, the stalks are a bit short; however, it also has shorter foliage, so the overall proportion is intact. With broad form and respectable substance, certainly an advancement in the cause. **‘Osseo’** (Worel 07, TB) was a pleasant surprise, and is a respectable advancement in the ever-elusive attempt at producing a blue-bearded yellow. Large, simply formed flowers have creamy light yellow standards, the falls a warm white with an undercurrent of the standards’ color, then capped with an impressive, quite clean light to medium blue beard. So often the offspring from this type of breeding produce muddy flowers and less than palatable memories. Not so here – a fresh, inviting color ensemble. The hybridizer must surely be partial to it also, in that he named it for his home town in Minnesota. Jack’s dedicated, concentrated work with blue beards is really starting to pay off – a nice addition to any garden.

Laced blues are still rare, especially in the fuller tones. **‘Cape Perpetua’** (Schreiner 06, TB) is a nice advancement, combining the sophisticated lacing of **‘Queen of Angels’** (Schreiner 95, TB) with their well-established blue line (**‘Captain’s Joy’** (94, TB)). Take the depth of blue found in **‘Captain’s Joy’** and add a significant degree of lace. Substance appears to be a bit thin, subject to further evaluation – it did hold up acceptably in rather challenging weather conditions.

‘Prime Power’ (Tasco 2006) is a nice advancement in full oranges, especially in the areas of plant habits and overall flower production. A moderate sized flower with moderate to heavy lace, yet the flowers open well without tearing or twisting. It is fully sunfast, with good substance that held up well after rains. It carries 3 branches, with the bottom branch coming up out of the foliage. Exemplary plant habits, healthy and vigorous. The saturation is intense – you can see it from clear across the garden.

4. Sun Belt Award—

To the Best Proven Variety, i.e., one that has been on the market long enough to be thoroughly tested in the Midwest (at least 4 years): **‘Sun Power’** (T. Johnson 04, TB) was blooming well in all 3 gardens in which it was guested in OKC, but was (past tense) especially stunning in the Stahl Garden – the week before convention. As (bad) luck would have it, some critter of the chewing kind (cutworms?) got into the clump, literally the night before tour day and ruined what was unquestionably a “Cup Clump”! This heavily ruffled full yellow is a beacon that can be seen clear across the garden. It doesn’t say “come hither” to you – it shouts “get over here!” Plant habits are peerless with rich blue-green foliage. It inherited its magnificent branching and bud count from the great parent, **‘Goldkist’** (Black 93, TB). It has been consistently superb every year since its first-year bloom in 2005 and has never failed to perform. Thomas has introduced several high-

quality yellows this past decade. Unfortunately, most have received very little ballyhoo – and this is the best of the bunch.

Runners-up:

'Jonnye's Magic' (Rich-Whitely 92, OGB) continues to impress me, and remains one of my all-time favorite arilbreds. Rounded, globular flowers in silvery-white are finely, artistically veined in deep violet, with the color intensifying the closer to the edges of the petals. The visual impact is that of a plicata, and is most unique in the class. Substance is substantial, allowing the expansive flowers to retain their shape through the life of the flower. Stalks are tall and strong, usually producing 1 branch, 3-4 buds. Its ability to endure any of the quirks of Mother Nature makes it consistent in performance, year after year. **'Hook'** (T. Johnson 01, TB) was one of the first introductions from Thomas Johnson, and set the standard for the high quality of work we would see from him. 'Hook' is a simple full-toned mulled wine to plum blend. The "hook" is literally a hook on this innovative Space Ager. With consistency, a white appendage extends up discreetly from thinner gold beards like the end of a crochet needle. It has tall willowy stalks in the tradition of its father, 'Conjuration' (Byers) with magnificent branching. A vision of health in the growth department, dependable year after year.

I have been impressed with **'Lady of Leoness'** (Spoon 00, TB) since the last national convention hosted in Oklahoma City – in 1999 by the former Sooner State Iris Society, when it was guested as a kissing cousin (reciprocal cross) to the Cook Cup Winner that year, 'Uncle Charlie' (Spoon 99, TB). Both irises are classics, coming from classic parents, Dykes Medalists 'Silverado' (Schreiner 87, TB) and 'Honky Tonk Blues' (Schreiner 88, TB). Granted, these two are similar, presented in soft, eloquent lavender-blue with lovely waving and ruffling. 'Lady of Leoness' is my preference of the two, but this is just a matter of personal taste. To my eye, it is just a touch smaller in size, and structurally more sound and slightly bluer than 'Uncle Charlie'. As you would expect from such choice parents, the plant habits are flawless, the branching and bud count perfection. **'Tickety Boo'** (Niswonger 01, SDB) has arisen from the pack to be one of the best examples of medians with contrasting beards. It has wonderful color in soft fawn to mauve pink hue, then accented with screaming, dazzling deep indigo blue beards, approaching purple to nearly black! Form is wide and sufficiently "finished" in appearance. It possesses wonderful growth habits and consistency in performance, even in the adverse conditions from Nebraska after a devastating freeze. Wonderfully obscene, cute and clever; it leaves quite an impact!

5. Dark Horse Award—

To the variety introduced within the past 10 years or so that has been overlooked by AIS judges and deserved higher awards: **'Citoyen'** (Anfosso 89, TB) I only discovered, myself, in recent years, and an impressive clump of it in the McGrath Garden at the Albuquerque Aril/Median Trek sealed the deal for me. An esoteric affair, with the base color an unusual shade of orange, toned down with beige. Then, bleeding at the edge of the falls is a diffused band of raspberry, almost in the style of an 'Emma Cook' pattern. Nothing like it on the market, with quality features inherited from its mother, the great Australasian Dykes Medalist, 'Sostenique' (Blyth 75, TB). Yes, Pete grows other irises besides arils, and in spite of all those aril types in full bloom on tour day, I found myself sneaking back over to the side of the house for another glimpse of this magnificent French iris.

Runners-up:

'Pewter Treasure' (Durrance 94, TB) was seen in the Stout Garden in OKC again this season, and brought back memories of just how impressive this iris is. Perfectly named, it is a pewter grey with deeper texture veins that add vitality to the flower. It has a translucent sheen that makes the flower glisten in the sunlight. Most "grey" irises are rather drab in the garden – not so with this one. A charming companion would be **'Sunny Bubbles'** (Maryott 93, TB), yet another fine Maryott variety that was unforgivably overlooked by AIS judges. A bright sunshine yellow, only slightly lighter in the heart of the falls, just below bright yellow beards. A beautiful study in iris ruffling, they are deep and frothy, perfectly positioned throughout the flower. **'Spitfire'** (Hager 1992, BB) was one of Ben's finest BBs, yet received very little "play" from the judges. A pure glistening white with bright tangerine beards. It came from a fine lineage, including the equally overlooked 'Bride's Lace' (Julander 78, TB) and 'Beverly Sills' (Hager 79, TB). It has respectable growth habits, whereas many red-bearded whites fail the test. And **'Fine Décor'** (C. Palmer 94, IB), another fine median from a largely unheralded Oklahoma hybridizer. Introduced the same year as the best IB Cleo ever produced (and one of the greatest IBs of all times), 'Frosty Elegance' (Palmer 94, IB), 'Fine Décor' is warmer, in soft yellow, creamy warm white in the falls, then banded in the yellow of the standards. Form is impeccable, wide and rounded, with a wonderful chiffon texture. Plant habits are flawless.

6. Pick Of The Litter Award—

To the most outstanding and promising seedling personally viewed this season: **PD.CbS.10.01** (Hugh Stout) was, hands-down, the star seedling of the OKC Convention, wowing conventioners with a huge clump in

the master planting at OSU. It was one of only a handful of seedlings that garnered a High Commendation (HC) vote in 2007. It is a light, airy blue-orchid amoena of moderate size, with color slightly more intensified at the edges of the falls in the style of an 'Emma Cook' pattern. A tangerine beard provides contrast, and is the "star" in the night sky. Completely encapsulated with ruffling, and its airy effect is heightened with nearly horizontal falls, setting the flowers to dance in the breeze, reminding me of the grace and ambiance of the great 'Heartstring Strummer' (B. Johnson 01, TB). Graceful stalks are in the style of 'Conjuration' (Byers 89, TB), but it is actually from another Dykes Medalist, 'Celebration Song' (Schreiner 93, TB), which produces a mighty fine show stalk itself. It has now been named '**Polestar**', and is scheduled for introduction in 2009 by Rockytop Gardens (Phil Williams, Tennessee). "Local boy done good!" -- created by a talented new hybridizer from right here in Oklahoma City who is also an outstanding AIS judge.

Runners-up:

Yet another seedling from the work of Slovakian breeder, **Anton Mego**, has found its way into this review, and received another one of my HC votes in the TB class in 2007: **AM-01/0641-1** is a splendid bicolor with apricot standards with an orchid flush in the midribs. That color of orchid becomes the primary color of the falls, with entrancing mauve undertones and a bright, joyous orange beard. Wonderful leathery texture and good substance allowed the flowers to endure a typical brisk Oklahoma wind. Stalks are tall and straight, with somewhat inconsistent branching, but mostly OK, with 2 to 3 branches. The color ensemble reminded me of the classic beauties from Opal Brown, or perhaps the early work of Paul Black. In all three convention gardens in which it was guested, the growth habits were excellent, with good bloom/increase ratio. **Lynn Markham's #97-7B3** was showing off in all three gardens in which it was guested in Oklahoma City. Clever lady – she has picked a perfect name for this seedling: '**Polished Bronze**', introduced in 2008 by Terry Aitken (Salmon Creek Garden). This innovative new iris is a dazzling display of rustic golden bronze with deeper, even glossy copper-brown airbrushing. It has rather unusual form, not the wide and rounded cookie-cutter sameness as our poor brainwashed eyes are accustomed to. The flowers are gently waved in harmony with the intensified coloring – never seen anything quite like it. In Oklahoma, it was only moderate in height, with ramrod straight stalks strong and sensible. The branches are actually quite close to the stalk, yet each flower at each position opened properly in all three gardens – in one, a couple of stalks had 3 open at once, and had plenty of backup buds for the next week. Good growth,

with an appropriate bloom/ increase ratio.

'Rachel Julia' (Francelle Edwards, a new hybridizer from Glendale, AZ) was the best seedling viewed during the Austin Convention. Registered in 2006, it is scheduled for introduction by Kary Iris Gardens (Scottsdale, AZ) in 2009. It is a lovely, refreshing bicolor, with clean light to medium yellow standards; the falls a tapestry of colors in orchid and tones of red and brown, then banded distinctly in tan-brown. Although from the super-parent, **'Conjuration'** (Byers 89, TB) it doesn't produce a Space Age appendage – just a bright yellow beard to complement the color array. Moderately ruffled and laced. Great stalks. Many in this color combination are soft on substance – not so with this new variety. The flowers hold their color well through the life of the flower. **Bob Annand's #89-7C** is a yellow/lavender bicolor in the tradition of **'Stairway to Heaven'** (Lauer 93, TB), but with a more moderate-sized flower and prettier, clearer color presentation. In spite of its subtle coloring, a huge clump in full bloom at the State Capitol Garden in Oklahoma City drew a lot of attention, winning it an HC, one of very few awarded this season. Strong stalks were tall and somewhat willowy, yet they gave gently in the breeze, allowing for an airy feeling. Branching was consistent and excellent throughout the clump. Plant habits were perfection, with a textbook bloom/increase ratio. Now named **'Capitol Debut'**, a 2008 introduction.

WATCH PARTY:

I'm always hesitant to describe seedlings still under number in the primary sections of Contemporary Views, because I believe that few people follow these reviews so closely as to go back and see if any I have recognized as seedlings go on to be introduced. But, with so many great seedlings seen these past two years, I don't think it's fair to limit the review to only five finalists for the Pick of the Litter.

Tall Bearded:

AM-01/0861-5 (Anton Mego) is an intriguing, unusual shade of brown, totally different from the American bloodlines such as Ghio's browns. What is fascinating is that, as the flower ages, the chestnut brown transforms to a totally different shade and texture – NOT fading – transforming. Stalks were a bit thinner, in formal candelabra style, but held up well in the breeze, with 3 branches, mostly double socketed. Good growth habits. I hope he introduces this one, just so I can watch the judges squirm when time to judge it at the show! **Doug Kanarowski 0180** was one of a very limited number of impressive seedlings at the Austin convention. This unusual mauved-violet reminds me of a prettier, cleaner version of the fine **'Endearing Charm'** (Painter 03, TB),

with similar bronze colored shoulder pads. Horizontal falls are heavily ruffled and literally touch at the hafts. It carries a nice satin texture and complementary bronze beards. Tall, strong stalks with modified candelabra branching with good placement.

Leroy Meininger 01-KDxCC (named '**Chill Factor**', a 2008 introduction) is a choice Space Age in pastel peach sherbet, whiter in the falls, then with darker peach shoulders and a hint of a halo around the falls. Deep apricot beards end consistently in white flounces. Very elegant. Tall stalks (40") often opened multiple large blossoms, but did a commendable job of remaining upright. It produced a huge clump, with rampant growth like '**Capricious Candles**' (Meininger 00, TB), but doesn't overbloom as '**Capricious Candles**' tends to do. Texture is soft chiffon and although the substance might appear to be less than desirable – not so – it held up superbly after a moderate rain. Another impressive Space Ager was '**Bewitching Hour**' (Helsley, Registered 2005), an intriguing dark one from a different approach to dark breeding. Although from '**Thornbird**' (Byers 89, TB), it is a deep wine-black, almost self in appearance except for a slight spray pattern of white around the beards which transform into stunning wine-red horns, consistent in their application. This was impressive in more than one garden at the Austin Convention.

Medians:

Good breeding goes beyond the iris patch – like mother like daughter. Stephanie, daughter of Lynn, also produced a seedling which is a repeater in this review, also making the "Watch Party" list in the 2005/2006 edition of *Contemporary Views*: **Stephanie Markham #98-42A**, now named '**Bit O' Royalty**', also being introduced in 2008 by Aitken, impressed me at the Portland Convention and again in 2007 in Oklahoma City. This diploid MTB is a smaller, more compact '**Among Friends**' (Varner 02, MTB) type, just as clean and colorful, just as exciting. Standards are clear white, pure and chaste, atop royal purple falls with a distinctive halo in white. It has incredible branching, with 3 branches, rebranching, and double sockets. Two SDB seedlings guested in Nebraska were impressive, and wound up being "guinea pigs" in an informative, impromptu judges training session conducted by Terry Aitken in the White Garden. **00-101-5** (Lee Walker) was beautiful and classy, reminding me of some of the early Paul Black things that were so nice. Warm cream with infusions of green in the standards. Falls carried a subtle small yellow-green spot around the beards. Heavy substance with beautiful waxy texture. Flowers were broad with moderate to heavy ruffling. A complete package. Perhaps

nothing new in color, yet I found it to be very distinctive in its own discreet way, and the waxy texture captivating. Another from this talented, relatively newer hybridizer from Oregon was **MC02-2-6** (Lee Walker). It is unique – nothing like it on the current market. It appears to be a *luminata*, or at least from *luminata* breeding. Standards are soft apricot-pink. The base color of the falls is the same, but then heavily overlaid with a delicate, attractive orchid-lavender wash/airbrushing. Bright shrimp-coral beards. Nicely formed, wide and simple. I would buy either of the seedlings in a heartbeat.

UPDATES:

With this edition of *Contemporary Views*, I will now provide updates to seedlings previously reviewed in earlier editions of *Contemporary Views*.

2005/2006 Issue:

‘Power Woman’ (Neil Mogensen, TB) was introduced in 2008 by Snowpeak Iris Garden.

‘Rayos Adentro’ (Carol Morgan, MTB) was introduced in 2007 by the Willotts.

‘That Certain Something’ (Griff Crump, TB) was introduced in 2008 by Winterberry Gardens.

Thomas Johnson T12B became **‘Super Model’** (TB), a 2007 introduction by Mid-America Gardens.

Thomas Johnson T137A became **‘Ice Capades’** (TB), a 2008 introduction by Mid-America Gardens.

Stephanie Markham 98-42A (MTB) became **‘Bit O’ Royalty’**, a 2008 introduction by Aitken Salmon Creek Gardens.

Merle Roberts 00-181A became **‘Wade Riley’** (TB), a 2007 introduction by Rockytop Gardens.

Terry Varner V-350 (MTB) became **‘Deserving Attention’**, a 2007 introduction by Hermit Medlars Walk.

2003/2004 Issue:

‘Elaine Bourque’ (Dorman Haymon, LA) was introduced in 2008 by Iris City Gardens.

Ron de la Motte 98-252-2 became **‘Maddie De’** (TB), introduced in 2007 by de la Motte.

Lesley Painter L97-7 became **‘Brilliance’** (TB), a 2005 introduction by Napa Country Iris Garden.

Barbara Schmieder 97-AR-6 (SDB) became **‘Banded Tiger’**, a 2006 introduction by Hermit Medlars Walk. 

Experiments with Small Arilbreds

By Lowell Baumunk, Colorado

Median-size arilbreds have been created from a few different types of crosses.

1. The most common is the cross of a full-sized arilbred halfbred with a standard dwarf bearded (SDB) iris, which usually gives us intermediate-sized quarterbreds.
2. Some fine median-sized halfbreds have come from crosses of (pure aril X SDB). These include Jonnye Rich's excellent 'Loudmouth' and Carl Boswell's popular 'Omar's Stitchery'.
3. The deservedly famous 'Oyez' (C.G. White 38) is a diploid halfbred (pure aril X diploid TB).

In recent years I have enjoyed experimenting with a few other types of aril and median crosses. Some may have been done before, but only rarely. The "Holy Grail" in this process would be the discovery of a fertile family of smaller arilbreds that would open the possibility of breeding within the group for desired traits. In this report you will see that results have been mixed, but I've had a lot of fun in the process.

Working with Arilpums

An *arilpum* is an arilbred that is half aril iris and half *Iris pumila*. The aril parent could be *Oncocyclus*, *Regelia*, or a hybrid of the two. *Iris pumila* is a diverse and colorful dwarf bearded species from Europe, an important ancestor of most of today's median irises. Arilpums are small and bloom early. They are known to be fertile with other classes of bearded irises, but not with each other and only as pollen parents.

'Aladdin's Gem' (Thoolen 02) is probably the most commonly grown arilpum today. Harald Mathes' 'Barbarella' (91) is another that exists in some gardens. The only other arilpum I have grown is a purple seedling of Mathes'. Francesca Thoolen and Elm Jensen are currently working on producing some new arilpums. I have obtained seedlings from two types of crosses involving arilpums:

(SDB X Arilpum) Quarterbreds

It has been observed that in crosses between arils or arilbreds and

bearded irises, there is a greater likelihood of aril-looking offspring when the aril or arilbred is the pod parent. Unfortunately, when working with arilpums, this has been impossible because of the arilpums' inability to set seed.

I have had a few successful crosses of this type. ('Chubby Cheeks' X 'Barbarella') gave me 'Persian Sapphire' (05). 'Persian Sapphire' has aril form and a small signal beneath a bright blue beard inherited from 'Chubby Cheeks'. Like my other (SDB X Arilpum) seedlings, it blooms with the SDBs and has SDB-like size and plant habits. These seedlings seem to be hardier than most arilbreds, even other quarterbreds.

Other good (SDB x Arilpum) seedlings have come from ('Cat's Eye' X 'Aladdin's Gem') and ('Pele' X 'Aladdin's Gem'). See photos pg. 56.

(Full-sized Halfbred X Arilpum) Halfbreds

I have made only one successful cross of this type and have only one seedling to show for it. But that seedling looks promising, and I intend to attempt more. The cross is ('Turkish Heart' X 'Aladdin's Gem'). The plant has aril-looking flowers, has been floriferous, and is a bit smaller than most SDBs. Fertility has not yet been tested. See photos pg. 57.

Working with MTBs

(Full-sized Halfbred X tetraploid MTB) Quarterbreds

Three (halfbred X tet MTB) crosses have produced mixed results. Many of the seedlings show virtually no aril characteristics. Those that do have an aril look are usually not beautiful. Only one of about 20 seedlings I have grown has a finished arilbred appearance, and it is being introduced this year as 'Babylon Prince' ('Nordic Sky' X 'Smash'). It has a smaller flower than its full-sized arilbred pod parent, but has only marginally better branching and bud count. If some fertility could be established with other (halfbred X tet MTB) irises, one could possibly bring MTB-type branching and bud count into the line. But in a couple of tries these crosses have produced no seeds. 'Babylon Prince' has shown fertility with both halfbred arilbreds and pogon irises. Seedlings are as yet unbloomed. See photos pg. 57.

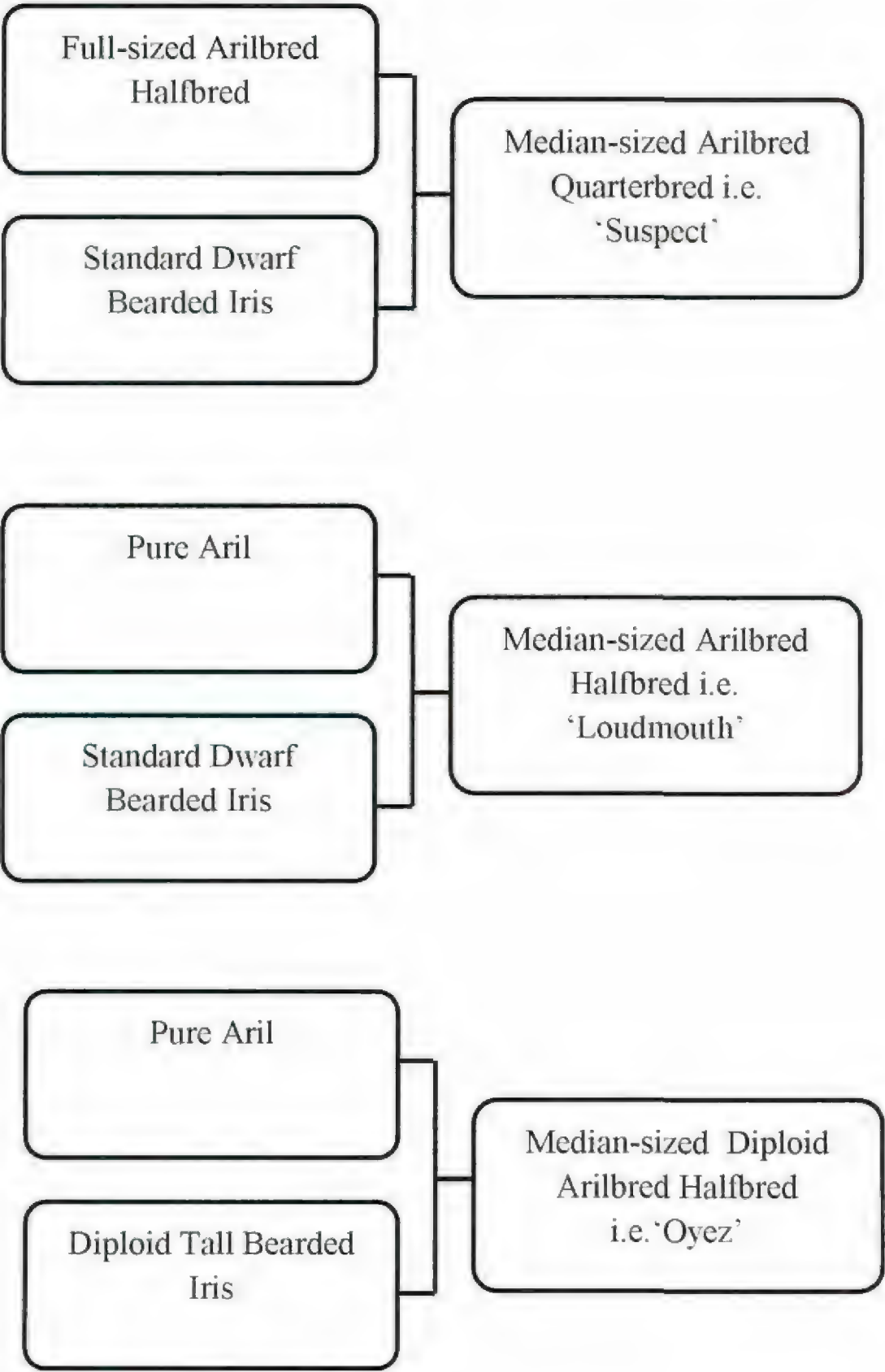
(Pure Aril X diploid MTB) Diploid Halfbreds

This cross is similar to the one that gave us 'Oyez', pairing a diploid aril as pod parent with a taller diploid pogon iris for pollen. I have made only one cross of this type ('Teucros' X 'Astra Girl'), but it produced an interesting plant which I introduced as 'Hammurabi' (04). 'Hammurabi' is quite small, has very aril-looking flowers and has a tendency to go dormant in both summer and winter. It has shown tolerance for a range of climates.

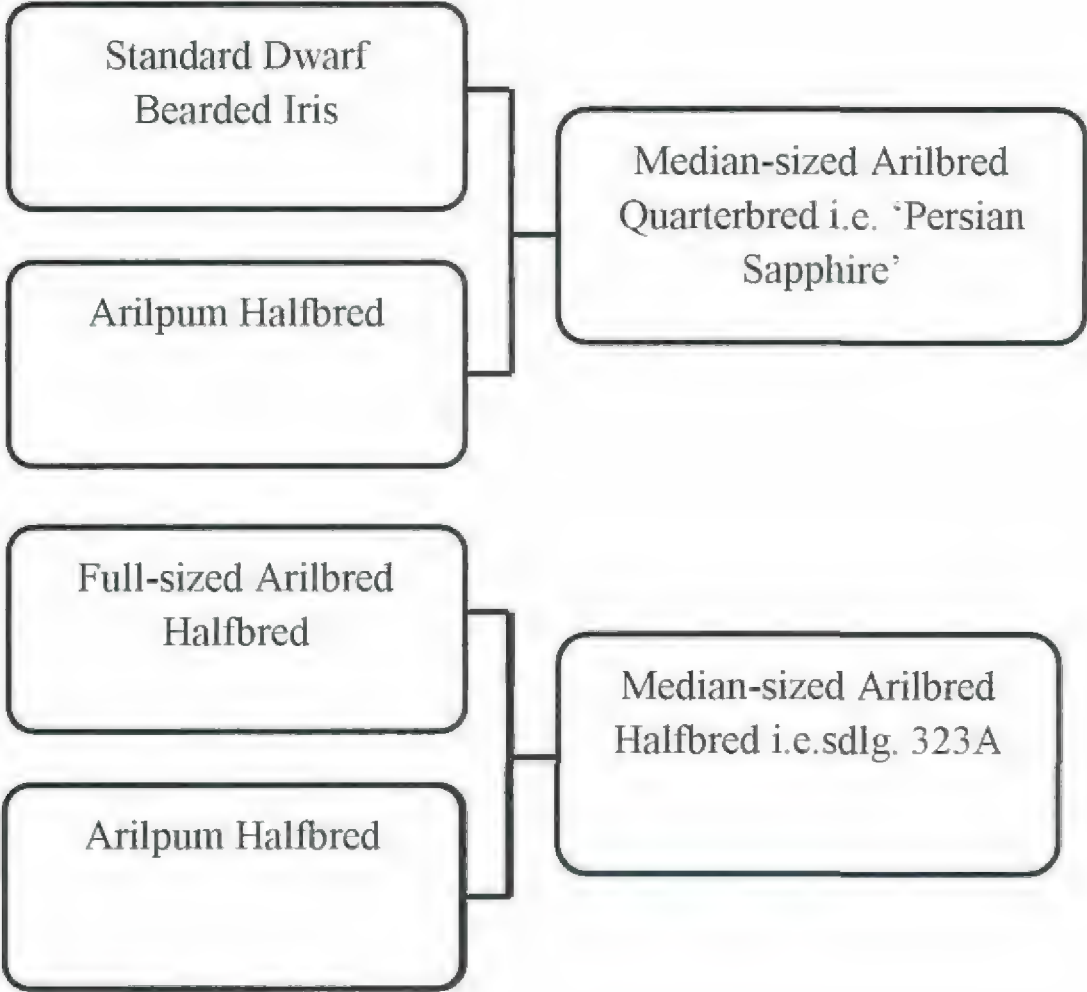
Like ‘Oyez’, it seems to be virtually infertile. See photos pg. 57.

All of these “different” crosses represent only a tentative beginning. Both the arils and the medians offer a wide range of genetic material ripe for experimentation. There are certainly some pleasant surprises waiting for hybridizers who want to pursue the new and the unusual.

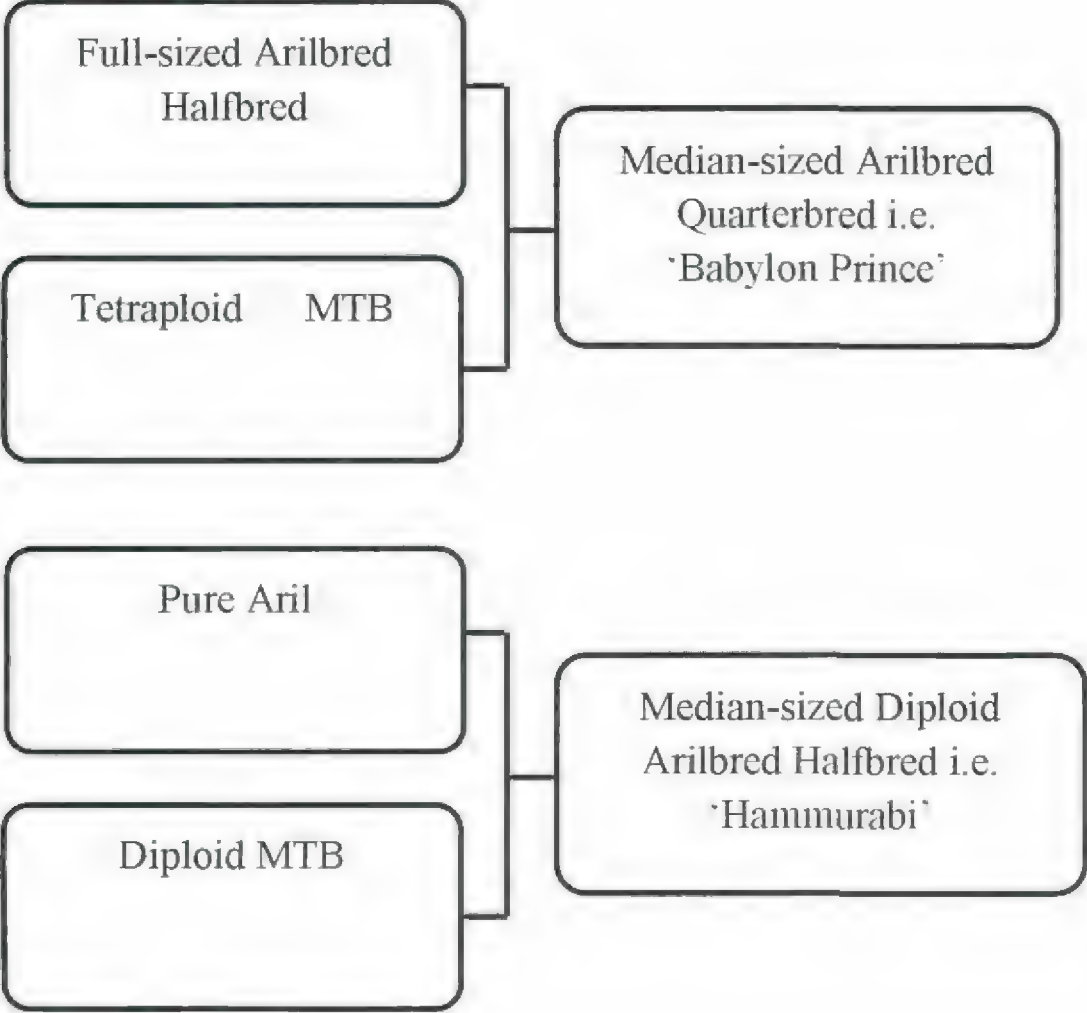
**Hybridizing Routes to Current Median-sized Arilbreds
(see first paragraph)**



Working with Arilpums



Working with MTBs



Introducing the new AIS Exhibitions Chairwoman

By Jayme Adams

My name is Jayme Adams and I was born in Kellogg, Idaho in 1963. I have always loved irises and have been around them my entire life. My first exposure that I can remember was when I was 5. I lived in Spokane, Washington and our next door neighbor had an entire backyard full of irises. I thought they were the most beautiful flowers I had ever seen. Apparently, my grandmother and great grandmother grew them also. But I really do not remember that. My mother and father have always grown iris. They started out with tall bearded iris. But through the years they have expanded into all categories of irises, and my education continued to expand with the knowledge they gained and shared along the way.

I lived in Spokane until I was six. Then my dad was transferred to Norway with the US Air Force to serve with NATO. My mother also grew tall bearded irises in Norway. The Norwegian woman in our neighborhood did not think she would be able to. She felt mom's venture was unlikely to succeed due to the geography of the country, intense rocky soil, and lack of topsoil. The irises thrived anyway and grew well for three years. She gave them away to the Norwegian neighbors when we came back from Oslo, Norway to Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho. That move brought a whole new exposure to growing conditions for irises, and the exposure to the different types of irises that would grow in the semi-arid desert environment. That has been helpful in my current home in Emmett, Idaho.

Some of my favorites to this day are '**Stepping Out**' (Schreiners 64, TB) and '**Belvi Queen**' (Jensen 76, TB) from having seen them as a little girl. I have expanded my interests into a lot of different areas. I have all types of irises, but my particular proclivity leans more to spurias, both growing and hybridizing with them.

I have been a member of the American Iris Society since 1995. I am an American Iris Society Judge. I have been Region 11's Assistant RVP, and I am now the current RVP for Region 11. I am also very active in my regional groups having been Gem State Iris Society's Vice President, and currently their secretary.

I appreciate everyone's patience, advice and assistance while I transition to Exhibition Chair. 

2009 AIS National Convention



**3 Trails KC – Still Time to Register
May 11 – 16**

by Judy Keisling, Missouri

Have you ever wanted to meet and talk with nationally-known hybridizers, to see the Dykes Medal presented and accepted, to see how decisions are made at an AIS Board meeting, or to mingle and talk with hundreds of others who have your same passion for iris?

If your answers to any and all of these questions is “yes”, 2009 is the year to attend an AIS National Convention. This year’s convention, hosted by the Greater Kansas City Iris Society, takes place in Overland Park, KS in May.

The convention begins on Monday afternoon at our convention headquarters, The Doubletree Hotel (10100 College Blvd.) with the AIS Board Meeting. Tuesday you’ll have the opportunity to sit in on a board meeting of the section of your choice (we’ve got eleven to choose from).

The section meetings begin on Wednesday – each of the section meetings features a program presented by a nationally-known expert on the particular variety of iris. This year, the schedule has been arranged so that there is no overlap of section meetings, so, should you wish, you’ll be able to attend all of these meetings, not just a few. Just take a look at the line-up of programs and speakers.

- Dwarf Iris Society - Newest MDB Introductions by Brad Kasperek
- HIPS - Sass Family History by Gary White
- Median Iris Society - Reblooming Medians by Terry Aitken
- SIGNA - Hybridizing with Species Iris by Dave Niswonger
- Aril Society International - Aril Overview by John Baumfalk
- Society for Japanese Irises - Unregistered Iris – the Dutch Connection by Dennis Hager
- Society for Louisiana Irises - A Short History of the Louisiana Iris and How To Grow Them by Ron Killingsworth
- Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises - Creating, Care and Feeding of Pacific Coast Iris by Bob Sussman
- Society for Siberian Irises - Preview of the 2009 Beardless Iris Convention by Barbara Sautner

- Spuria Iris Society - Spuria Iris by Jim Hedgecock
- Reblooming Iris Society – The Age of Rebloomers is Here – Roundtable Discussion moderated by Ken Roberts

During the week, you'll have a variety of special programs to choose from – “Design Workshop for the Inexperienced” (Artistic Design) by Jean Morris, “How Do Your Iris Grow” (Iris Culture) by Kelly Norris, “How to Make Money and Have a Profitable Iris Sale” by Paul Gossett and Jo Ann Minter, and “Hybridizing With or Without A Specific Purpose”, a Tall Bearded program featuring Brad Kasperek, Dave Niswonger, and Lowell Baumunk. Plus, two judges training sessions will be offered, one on Ethics by Judy Keisling and the other on Species Iris by Bob Pries. A one-hour in-garden judges training will also be available during the visit to Powell Gardens.

Food is also on the agenda. Wednesday evening you'll attend the gala Welcome Banquet, enjoy the Geek Dinner and Auction on Friday night and end the convention by attending the Awards Banquet at which the Dykes Medal, Wister Medals, and Section medals are awarded.

Garden tours take place Thursday through Saturday and you'll be treated to touring the five guest gardens – Powell Gardens, Overland Park Arboretum and K-State and the gardens of Scott and Debbie Hughes and Jim Murrain and Jim Waddick.

In the mood to acquire newly introduced iris or buy some iris-themed items? Then, visit the AIS Boutique and Silent Auction rooms and chances are you'll find just what you're looking for (and some things that you weren't looking for as well).

Another feature of this year's convention is the HIPS Happening. Members of the Historic Iris Preservation Society donated over 300 varieties of historic irises from their gardens and the 2007 plant sale which were planted at three of the guest gardens for our enjoyment during the convention. Historic varieties have also been planted at the Lanesfield Historic School Site, the last remaining limestone, one-room school house on the Santa Fe Trail, which we will also visit. Hundreds of area school children will visit the site this spring and be introduced to our iris heritage.

In addition to the regular convention schedule, two alternate tours are available. On Tuesday, you'll have the opportunity to tour four outstanding gardens of members of the Pony Express Iris Society located in and around the St. Joseph, MO area. Wednesday's tour will be a museum tour featuring the Steamboat Arabia Museum and the nationally acclaimed World War I Museum.

A registration form and more information about the convention are in the January AIS Bulletin and can be found on-line at both the AIS web page at www.irises.org and the Greater Kansas City Iris Society web page at www.kciris.org. We look forward to seeing you at the convention. 🌸

Sir Michael Foster Memorial Plaque

By Terry Aitken, Washington State

My attempt at being subtle in January has apparently failed and a better explanation has been requested. I was both pleased and surprised when the medal arrived.

In 1997, Clarence Mahan wrote in the international news "One of the most prestigious honors in the iris world is the Foster Memorial Plaque, an award of the British Iris Society. Instituted in memory of Sir Michael Foster, it is reserved for individuals of any nationality who make substantial contribution to the advancement of the genus *Iris*."

Knowing that several Americans had recently received this honor, I contacted Keith Keppel to see if he knew who else was on the list. In his usual thorough manner, Keith provided me with the list that appeared on the inside front cover of the January Bulletin going all the way back to the beginning of AIS. The double asterisks indicated the other living members of this group including Dr. Lee Lenz, Keith Keppel, Bennett Jones, Dave Niswonger, and Clarence Mahan.

Reading this list of recipients was a very sobering experience. Over the past 40 years, many of these people have served as my mentors or role models and I find it difficult to consider my name in association with them. My conscience must ask "have my actions served as a role model for the next generation?" ❧



The Emeritus Judge

Recognition for Outstanding Service

By Judy Keisling, AIS Chairman of Judges, Missouri

Congratulations are in order for George Sutton and Margaret Sutton, Region 14, and Riley Probst, formerly of Region 18, each of whom were recently appointed by the American Iris Society as an Emeritus Judge.

In the five plus years that I have served as the AIS Judges Chair, I've often been asked what the title Emeritus Judge means and why and how a judge is appointed to this status. Let's take a look at those questions. This information can also be found on page 9 of the *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials*, Seventh Edition.

Emeritus Judge is an honorary title bestowed by the American Iris Society to a judge who has made outstanding contributions of service to the American Iris Society over a period of time. The Judge's Handbook states this a bit differently by saying "this honor is given to judges who have rendered outstanding service to the Society". But regardless of the way it is stated, the bottom line is that individuals who receive the title of Emeritus Judge are being honored not only for the performance of their duties as an AIS judge (the main criterion) but also for diverse and outstanding contributions to the *AIS national organization* and through work with and for AIS Sections, Regions, and Affiliates as well as with AIS Cooperating Societies.

Currently there are 37 Emeritus Judges from 17 of the 24 AIS Regions.

Appointments of Emeritus Judges are made by the Board of Directors at the annual Fall Board Meeting in November from those nominated during the year. A nomination may be made by an RVP or by another AIS member. The individual making the nomination may nominate a judge from within their region or from another region.

To make a nomination, the individual making the nomination must write a letter that clearly states as completely as possible the nominee's record of judging and other service to the AIS and obtain four letters of support for the nomination from four fully accredited judges, at least two of whom must be from outside the nominee's region.

Once the nominator has obtained the supporting statements, the letter of nomination and the supporting statements are to be sent to

the AIS Chairman of Judges who then reviews the documents for completeness and recommends valid candidates (those who have met the criterion of outstanding service) to the Board of Directors for consideration. Approval by three-fourths (75%) of the directors present and voting is required for appointment.

Immediately following the Fall Board meeting at which Emeritus Judge(s) have been appointed, the AIS Chairman of Judges will notify newly appointed Emeritus Judges in writing as well as their RVP, Regional Judges Training Chair, and nominator and the appointment will be publicized in the AIS Bulletin, in the January issue if possible.

It is hoped that Board members, other judges, and AIS members who know these new Emeritus Judges will take a few minutes to congratulate them. Emeritus Judge is a status to be respected and honored - they deserve to know that you care.

Nominations may be made by regular mail or email to: Judy Keisling, AIS Chairman of Judges, 12119 County Road A, Liberty, MO 64068-8114; email Keisling@swbell.net. Nominations must be received no later than October 15 for consideration at the November board meeting. 

We honor our members...

Congratulations to Terry Aitken for receiving the prestigious Foster Memorial Plaque from the British Iris Society.

Congratulations to Margaret & George Sutton and Riley Probst on their promotion to Emeritus Judgeships by the AIS Board.

Congratulations across the sea to Richard Cayeux of France for his receipt of the Bee Warburton Medal. (see page 107)

An Editor's Lament

By Judy Keisling, Region 18 Editor, Missouri

It's 10 days before the Bulletin deadline. I'm anxiously going through my store of articles submitted for this issue - forty-eight pages to fill and only enough material for half of those pages. What to do, what to do?

Where are all of those articles that people have promised to send me? I call a few; I hear "Oh, I forgot," "I just haven't had time," "I'll get it to you in a couple of days," etc. etc.

A week goes by and only two of the promised articles have come in. Thankfully they are both fairly lengthy, and I now have enough to fill thirty-six pages. I call again for the promised articles - "nag, nag, nag". I really need those articles. I call a few people who have contributed in the past - no luck there. I call people who have never contributed and ask for something, anything - and give them a few suggestions. I get a couple of "okay, I'll get you something."

Two days before deadline. YES - I've got more articles; only 4 pages short now. I can't wait any longer and start going through old issues of the AIS Bulletin and copies of other region's bulletins and find a couple of things I can use. The deadline comes and I've made it; I'm done - this time.

This scenario is not unique to me. Editors of all of our society's bulletins and newsletters feel the angst of having pages to fill and not enough articles with which to fill them.

But not to complain - those of us who are editors love what we do and keep on doing it because our time is free and hours long (in other words, we donate our time, talent, and headaches). But at the end of the day, we have an immense feeling of satisfaction as we put our publication "to bed" and start gearing up to do it all over again for the next issue.

I've been the editor of the Region 18 Bulletin for the past eight years and it's as much of a challenge today to get material as it was when I started. I've discovered that many readers seem to think that the editor does all the work - not so! In reality the editor's primary job is to proofread the articles submitted, correct grammatical problems, make minor corrections to conform to the publication's style, format it, add pictures and graphics in the appropriate places, send it out to be printed, and review the page proofs from the printer before it goes to press. Our

job is not to write the articles, although sometimes we must to fill our allotted number of pages.

Editors are sometimes commended for their publication and while we appreciate the kind words, the ones to be commended are those who take the time to write and submit articles. They are an editor's best friends. They make it possible to publish a meaningful and interesting publication containing a diverse selection of articles – a publication that readers look forward to.

So why is it so difficult to get articles? Two of the most common reasons editors hear when asking for articles are: I don't write very well and/or I don't know what to write about. To which I say "poppycock!"

In response to the "I can't write" argument, I say, "just put it down in your own words and I'll fix it for you" – after all, that's why I get paid the big bucks. **And when I hear "I don't know what to write about" I say "Everyone who has a passion for iris has a story to tell about something iris-related. What's your story?"** Sometimes, but not always, my responses and nagging get creative juices running and articles come straggling in – at least that time. These scenes will be repeated for the next issue and the next.

So I ask you, the reader, what are you doing to support your editors – whether they are the editor of this very publication you are reading, of your region bulletin or your affiliate newsletter?

Take a few minutes to think about some of the things you could write about. Maybe it's something you do (or someone else does) in the iris patch (large or small) that's different from how others do it – planting, weeding, fertilizing. Or maybe it's how you decide what iris to add to your collection each year. Maybe it's about your local society – an anniversary, history of your society, things that have made iris sales and/or auctions successful, special events, etc. Or maybe it's something special or unique that you saw or experienced when attending a convention or garden tour. Maybe it's how you take pictures, edit them, store them, use them, or display them. There are a myriad of things to write about – the list goes on and on and is limited only by your imagination. The article does not have to be lengthy or technical. A good publication ideally contains articles from many viewpoints that will be meaningful to both the advanced and novice irisarian and those in between.

The editor's dream is to have too many articles from which to choose for an issue (if we can't use them all this time, we save them and use them in a subsequent issue). Help fulfill our dream. Take the time to write and submit an article (or more) to your AIS, regional and/or local editor. We'll love you for it. 

The Age of Rebloomers is Here Today

By Ken Roberts, Reblooming Iris Society President, Pennsylvania

Lloyd Zurbrigg was dedicated to creating rebloomers and has been credited by many with popularizing the age of rebloomers. At the time of its introduction his 'Immortality' (82, TB) was a major advancement in the form of remontant irises and it still lives up to its name. However, there were many other hybridizers also concentrating on developing rebloomers. Monty Byers was an avid promoter of them and I believe it was Ben Hager that said "Rebloomers are the iris of the future." Well folks, the future is now here. There are many others, too many to mention here, that pioneered the advancement of the reblooming iris.

For those who attended the Reblooming Section meeting in Austin, you heard George Sutton confirm that the age of rebloomers has arrived. At one time it was thought that rebloomers were an oddity and that their form was unworthy of introduction. That is no longer the case as I have seen better form, branching and color patterns in some recent introductions and in a number of seedlings. Indeed, I have seen rebloomers that surpass some currently introduced "oners". This includes cultivars that rebloom reliably on the east coast.

On page 143 of the *2007 Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* under the title Garden Judging it states "The ability of an iris to rebloom should always be considered an outstanding characteristic." Under the title Exhibition Judging you will see "To be fair, judge the quality of a reblooming iris as you would a non-reblooming iris. Reblooming iris should be of the same quality as a once-blooming iris." As I just mentioned, I have seen some rebloomers that are superior to recently introduced once-bloomers so we should see reblooming irises as Queen of Show more often. Okay hybridizers, let's see more of them! Now they can compete evenly with all irises in the same classification.

Yes, rebloomers are no longer the iris of the future. Landscape contractors and garden designers are searching for them because they offer an extended bloom season. We need to educate them that although 'Immortality' was the star of the past, there are many dozens from numerous hybridizers that now exceed it in color and form. We

salute the hybridizers who are now actively developing the reblooming iris in all classifications. Congratulations to all hybridizers who have brought us this far.

Please join us for the RIS section meeting at the AIS Convention in Kansas City from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, May 13. We hope you will see how some award-winning rebloomers were hybridized and that it will encourage you to be an active RIS member and begin a strong program for developing more rebloomers. Remember the iris future is here today! They are rebloomers. 



'Mother Earth', TB, (Hager '87)

The Average Member

By Charles I. Coldsmith, Kansas

[Editor's Note: Special thanks to Janet Smith for resurrecting this from AIS Bulletin #114 -July 1949. Though written 50 years ago, Mr. Coldsmith's insightful praise means as much now as it did then. Enjoy this voice from the past.]

It is with real satisfaction and profit that I receive the AIS Bulletin. But I ask myself, why do I belong to the Society and delight in receiving its magazine? I rather think the answer must be found in my understanding of the objectives of the Society and the character of its membership.

As to the first, it would seem that at times the primary objective of the *Bulletin* is to popularize some new iris, for they are mentioned again and again in article after article. As I read these comments about certain iris, it occurs to me that these new things must be the last and final work and that perfection has been achieved. I must confess that I have to put the brakes on my enthusiasm, else I might spend the entire year's iris budget for one or two plants (which might not be such a bad idea after all). Then I rearrange my prejudices and realize again that that is not the fact at all. The *Bulletin* is the quickest and surest way for the knowledge of these fine new things to be passed on to the membership of the society. Anyone interested in really good iris must feel a sense of satisfaction and appreciation for the many fine plants that come yearly from those who give so freely of time and effort in the production of the new and beautiful in iris. It may be true that most of us will have to wait for these new things, but waiting is not without its compensations, for I have noticed that time proves the worth, or lack of worth, of a lot of things, iris included. Some of those that were lauded so highly a few years back have faded from the contemporary scene, evidently not quite measuring up to the high expectations that accompanied their introduction.

As to the second part of the answer—the character of the people that make up the membership of the society—I rather assume that they represent a cross-section of our citizens. I notice the names of doctors, teachers, engineers, ministers, priests, housewives—just the every-day kind of folks that represent real America. If that be true, then the bulk of the membership is neither rich nor poor, but just ordinary people

engaged in the various tasks of life and yet all having one thing in common—a mutual love of flowers. We represent that group of whom Lincoln spoke when he said, “God must have loved common folks; He made so many of us.”

Of course that means that our gardens will be just as common and average as we are. We will be glad for those whose gardens are the show places, revealing the infinite possibilities of the flowers in which we are interested, but for most of us the new creations will be conspicuous by their absence. Our work will be with the older varieties whether we simply grow them for the fun of seeing beautiful flowers or whether we attempt a few crosses now and then. Many of these older ones still continue to rank with the best of the newer creations even though it has been years since they were introduced.

This then raises another query, why do we fool with iris at all? For most of us it is not a method of financial return. If we can make our hobby pay expenses we are doing very well indeed. The answer then must be that we do it for the relaxation and pleasure that comes from seeing a beautiful flower, especially if that flower is one that we ourselves have produced. What could be more conducive to a day of satisfaction and pleasure than to begin it by watching one of your own flowers open in the varying shades of morning light?

Something of that delight and pleasure is open to us even with our limited varieties. If I remember correctly, ‘Prairie Sunset’ (Sass 39, TB) came from three flowers—two old ones, ‘Rameses’ (Sass 28, TB) and ‘Midgard’ (Sass 26, TB), and the third ‘Sandalwood’ (Sass 37, TB), not so terribly new. Many of us have some of these older ones and doubtless quite a few have some much newer. So the possibilities are present with us. Some few years ago I crossed ‘Jean Cayeux’ (Cayeux 31, TB) and ‘Wambliska’ (Sass 30, TB). From this cross I kept one seedling, a large vigorous, well branched, cream flower. In turn I crossed this cream seedling with a Sass bronze seedling. From this cross I secured, among others, a fair sized cream-pink self, with a glowing tangerine beard. I must confess that I got up an hour earlier than usual the morning that this flower bloomed, just to watch it unfold in the weird light of the dawning day. I am not deceiving myself about it at all, but I must admit that I received a real thrill as I saw that beautiful flower come into bloom. One of my neighbors saw it that day and admired it very much. Next day she came again, saying, “Well, I just had to see Orange Sherbet again today,” and ‘Orange Sherbet’ it has been ever since.

Now we have plants from ‘Orange Sherbet’ crossed with Loomis SQ 72, which should bloom this spring. Well, that’s just pure fun. And there is a lot more fun ahead also. But here is where the *Bulletin* comes

in again. I read and re-read the sections of the report of the Scientific Committee concerning the origin and characteristics of the tangerine beard. The recommendation that certain crosses be made with the tangerine beards was not difficult to follow for some of those named were older iris. Last fall we planted over 500 seeds from these crosses. That is why I say there is fun ahead. I realize full well that most of these will not be tangerine beards, but I also know that many fine iris have come from such crosses and that they come in a wide variety of colors. Part of the pleasure of crossing is the anticipation of what *may* happen.

There is still another source of pleasure that comes to us all, regardless of the character of the garden that we may have. That is the fact that so many people share its beauty with us. It is still true that a beauty shared as well as a blessing shared is only leading to the business section of the town. Hundreds of people pass by every day. And when the flowers are blooming, strangers as well as friends stop to talk and visit. Isn't it strange that a common interest in things breaks down the barriers that keep us strangers to each other? Or is it? At any rate people whom we have never seen before, stop, look and then we begin to talk and share a mutual interest. We have gained by sharing.

Such is the possibility of just an ordinary flower garden. Why belong? Because we like to know the progress that is being made in the hobby in which we are interested. Who are we? Just folks that love flowers, willing to work with them, knowing full well that they will return to us the joy of beautiful things. And the joy will be increased because we have helped that beauty to expression. Realizing that most of us will never produce the top notchers, we can still have abundant pleasure and satisfaction out of a hobby that adds brightness and joy to living, and shows us something of the handiwork of God. 

Alophia drummondii

a Deep South Irid

By Rodney Barton, Texas

A *lophia drummondii* [R. C. Foster] is a lovely and interesting irid native to Eastern Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Southern Arkansas and Southern Mississippi. Common names for it include purple pleat-leaf and pine or pinewood lily. The plants grow from a small, shallow bulb and forms loose colonies in sandy soils in lightly wooded areas. The leaves are mostly basal and pleated. They are winter dormant and flower from May through fall.

The flowers resemble *Tigridia*, with a cupped center, rounded outer segments and narrow inner segments. The margins of the inner segments curl tightly inward. Both inner and outer segments are velvety purple to red-purple at the margins and yellowish, spotted red-brown in the center. Unlike *Tigridia*, the flowers are secund (face the side). Several flowers are formed at the terminus, opening in succession and lasting only a day.

In East Texas (according to Ajilvsgi), *A. drummondii* is found predominantly in a plant association called the 'longleaf/bluestem uplands'. These are scattered slopes, hills, ridgetops and low mounds dominated by longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) and sometimes short leaf pine (*P. echinata*) with an understory of small trees, shrubs and grasses primarily bluestem or *Andropogon* ssp. Ajilvsgi describes them as "semi-shaded" (by all levels of the canopy including the grasses). The soils are acid and well-drained and composed of medium to coarse-



A. drummondii

grained sand up to several feet thick over a substrate of clay.

A. drummondii germinates easily, with no special treatment of the seed required. (Seeds are usually offered in the SIGNA seed exchange). However, I have not found it as easy to maintain. After several years, I have only one bulb of flowering size. Mine were potted in mixture of roughly equal parts garden soil, sand and peat. The pot was sunk into in a raised bed on the eastern side of the house that receives morning sun and afternoon shade. They bloomed after their third season but failed to bloom the last two years possibly due to early hot and dry weather. An acquaintance in the heart of their range in East Texas says they sometimes “just take a year off” from blooming. I am just west of their native range and they would probably benefit from more moisture during the growing season. This season I repotted them in a 50:50 mix of sand and potting soil and their early growth is encouraging.

The genus *Alophia* (Greek for “without a crest”) consists of five species. *A. drummondii* is the most northern of the genus and the only species found in the US. It is named for its discoverer, Scottish botanist Thomas Drummond. Clive Innes lists a total of 13 synonyms for *A. drummondii*. The incorrect synonym *Eustylis purpurea* is commonly used in Texas wildflower books. To add to the confusion many of these same books follow Correll and Johnston and misapply *Alophia drummondii* to *Herbertia lahue*. *H. lahue* is another irid native to Texas and Louisiana that is quite distinct



A. drummondii

having blue flowers with no yellow color, narrow outer segments and greatly reduced inner segments. Being a Texas wildflower enthusiast, it took some time for me to sort out the accepted names for these two plants but I'm glad that I now know the difference. The other four species of *Alophia* are all found in Central and South America. A lot of revision has taken place over the past 20 years with several other species no longer considered to be in the genus and transferred to *Herbertia* and other genera. *A. drummondii* itself was transferred to *Alophia* from *Herbertia* once enough work was done by botanists both in the field and in the herbarium.

References:

Ajilvsgi, Geyata, "Wild Flowers of the Big Thicket", Texas A&M University Press

Correll and Johnston, "Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas", Texas Research Foundation, 1970

Diggs, Lipscom and O'Kennon, "Shiners & And Mahlers' Flora of North Central Texas", Botanical Research Institute of Texas 1999

Innes, Clive "The World of Iridaceae", Holly Gate International Ltd. 1985

Wildflowers of Mississippi, Arkansas Biodiversity, The Vascular Flora from <http://www.csd1.tamu.edu/flora/arkansas/> ❧



Alophia

Hands across the Prairie:

From Kalamazoo to Dubuque

By Rita Gormley, Iowa

[Editor's Note: Thanks to Rita Gormley for this great story about volunteerism and irises. Reprinted from SJI REVIEW 45(2), Fall 2008.]

When we moved to Dubuque, Iowa last year, we were delighted to find that we were only three miles from the Dubuque Arboretum. It is the only arboretum and botanical garden in the USA staffed entirely by volunteers. The trees, plants and shrubs, and seed-gifts which are all labeled throughout the garden are maintained by 325 dedicated individuals. The 52-acre public garden was established in 1980 and is open without charge seven days a week from May 1 to October 31, and weekdays the remainder of the year.

The gardens include what is claimed to be the largest public hosta garden in the United States (13,000 plants representing over 700 varieties), as well as annual and perennial gardens, several children's



Existing plantings in the Arboretum's Japanese Garden
(All photos: Judy Curnan)

gardens, an English knot garden, a formal English garden, herb garden, cactus garden, Iowa State and All-America Selections test gardens, Japanese garden designed by Hoichi Kurisu, and rose gardens. Also notable are the collections of unusual conifers and dwarf conifers.

Last fall we spent many hours touring the garden and admiring the huge variety of flora as well as taking all of our out-of-town visitors there. We were able to clearly see what perennials and shrubs did well in this harsh Iowa climate and plan for our own new garden.

In the spring of this year, we went over many times, mostly in the rain, to take photographs of the bearded irises. We agreed to assist Judy Curnan, "Green Team" Coordinator, with the proper ID of the TBs in the four beds as there is a large collection of many of the 44 introductions by Fred Spahn, (deceased 1994). One bed of the four was totally dug this summer by the "Green Team" and planted back with "verified" cultivars and some new ones donated by Kelly Norris of Rainbow Iris Farm.

While touring the gardens with Judy Curnan, I admired the continuing work on the charming Japanese Garden which includes planting 90 trees and adding new gardens near the new gate. Plans also include finishing a major league entrance, large waterfall, smaller



Volunteers plant donated Japanese irises



Overall shot of the Japanese Garden

waterfall, swans, goldfish, lake, several bridges, tea house, and many exotic specimen plants.

There was a lovely planting of 'Caesar's Brother' (Morgan 32, SIB) but NO Japanese irises at all! Tom and I had just returned from the SJI Convention in Kalamazoo with three large pots from Don Delmez of his introductions to plant in our new garden. Jack Smith, President of the Dubuque Arboretum and Judy enthusiastically accepted our donation of these JIs and we discussed placement of these next to the small zig-zag bridge. I also told them I would approach the SJI Convention organizers, Southwestern Michigan Iris Society, to see if they would donate some additional varieties. Judy promptly made arrangements with her volunteers to dig out some of 'Caesar's Brother' to plant the three new JIs.

Several weeks later, a HUGE box (55 lbs!) arrived at our house containing the SWMIS donation to the Japanese garden. My original plan of potting these plants went right out the window because all of them were CLUMPS, one as big as my lap! I called Judy to tell her of our "delightful dilemma" and promptly took all the irises over to the arboretum where they were kept in a holding area until the volunteers could return to dig out more Siberians. John Coble gave us advice on preparing the 7.6 pH soil we have here in the hilly limestone area about five miles from the Mississippi River. We are all thrilled with the "Hands across the Prairie" donation from the Kalamazoo group to this delightful garden in Dubuque and look forward to bloom from these "instant clumps".



Rita Gormley

A Tribute to Richard Cayeux

By Clarence Mahan

Richard Cayeux of France has contributed significantly to the knowledge of irises in Europe and around the world by writing an excellent book, *L'Iris: une fleur royale* (Malesherbes, France, 1996). He also co-authored, with Philippe Bonduel and Maurice Boussard, a basic iris primer in French, *L'ABCdaire des Iris*, which is available in paperback.

Richard Cayeux worked with his father to reestablish the Cayeux nursery as the most famous iris nursery in Europe after the war, and he now operates that nursery himself. He is also a distinguished iris hybridizer and his irises are well-known all over the world. He is the fourth generation to lead the world of irises to ever more enticing beauty.



The Bee Warburton Medal, awarded to Richard Cayeux 2008

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Due to the increased usage of digital pictures in lieu of Slides, there are few NEW Slide programs.

Many Affiliates still request only Slides Programs. If you have slides of Newer irises, we would appreciate having them to make new Slide programs as copying digital to slides is very expensive. Please send them priority mail and we will promptly have them copied and return to you.

Members and Affiliates:

We have many new CD programs “in the works” including: “Iris Show Designs”, “Irises Through The Seasons”, “Iris Color Patterns and Definitions”. If you have suggestions for new iris programs or have a great presentation on irises you would like to share with others, please contact me and we’ll see about incorporating it into the AIS Slides Program!

Hybridizers:

Each year we will put together a program for “NEW INTRODUCTIONS”. We request both slides and digital pictures of your 2008 introductions. This is a great opportunity for new introductions to be seen in different parts of the country and whet the appetites of already confirmed iris lovers for new and different varieties and types of irises. Be sure to send your BEST photographs for this is your “face” to the iris buying public! We show the Hybridizers in alphabetic order with an intro slide with the Name, Address, Telephone, e-mail and website address for each. We do reserve the right to limit the total number of pictures to fit in a presentation time frame.

Photo: Janet Smith



AIS Storefront

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Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS): Contact Robert & Linda Karr, 205 North Craig Avenue, Newport, WA 99156-9706; (509) 447-2552; iris@sprucecorner.com Rental fee \$10.00. Check to HIPS.

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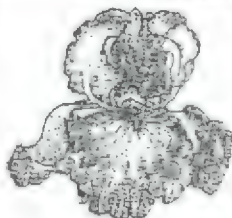
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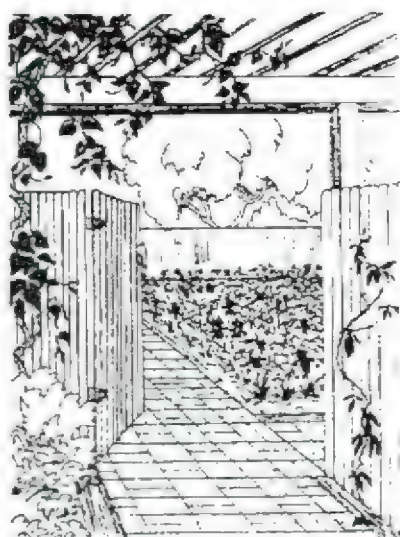
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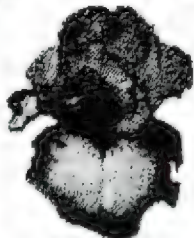
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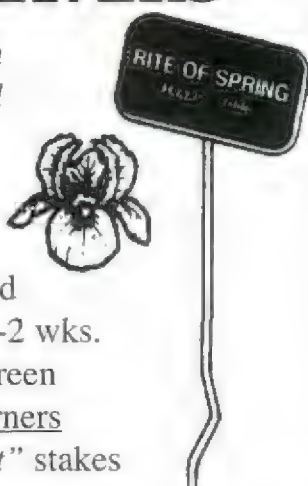
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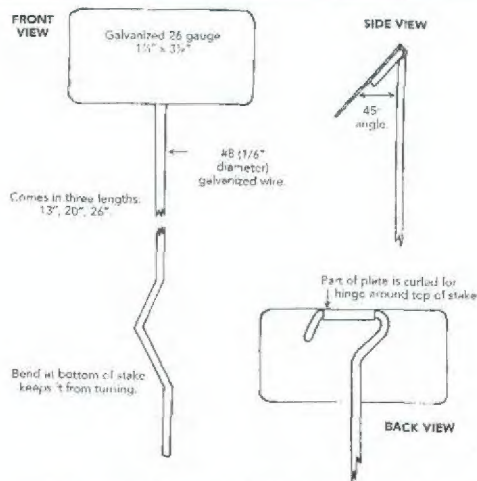
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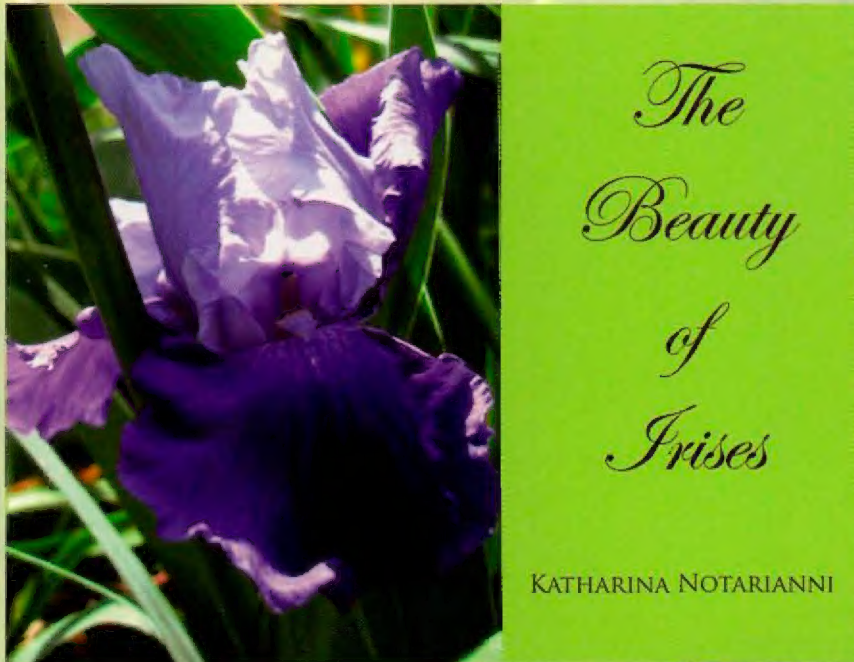
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